LINCOLN - TODD ROMANCE

DRAWER 2 MARY TODD - YOUTH

71.2009.085.04421

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# Mary Todd Lincoln

## Lincoln-Todd Romance

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

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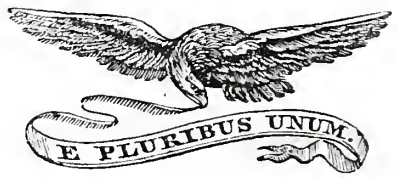
Original in
Lincoln Mss box 1

# COTILLION PARTY.




*The pleasure of your Company is respectfully solicited at a Cotillion Party, to be given at the "American House," on to-morrow evening at 7 o'clock, P. M.*

*December* 16*th*, 1839.

N. H. RIDGELY,
J. A. M'CLERNAND,
R. ALLEN,
M. H. WASH,
F. W. TODD,
S. A. DOUGLASS,
W. S. PRENTICE,
N. W. EDWARDS,
J. F. SPEED,
J. SHIELDS,
E. D. TAYLOR,
E. H. MERRYMAN,
N. E. WHITESIDE,
M. EASTHAM,
J. R. DILLER,
A. LINCOLN,

*Managers.*

EVENING TRANSCRIPT.

TUESDAY EVENING, AUGUST 14, 1860.

## BRILLIANTS.

### A NOBLE YOUTH.

As some rich woman, on a winter's morn,
Eyes through her silken curtains the poor drudge
Who with numb blackened fingers makes her fire—
At cock-crow, on a starlit winter's morn,
When the frost flowers the whitened window panes—
And wonders how she lives, and what the thoughts
Of that poor drudge must be; so Rustum eyed
The unknown adventurous youth, who from afar
Came seeking Rustum, and defying forth
All the most valiant chiefs: long he perused
His spirited air, and wondered who he was.
For very young he seemed, tenderly reared;
Like some young cypress, tall, and dark, and straight,
Which in a queen's secluded garden throws
Its slight dark shadow on the moonlit turf,
By midnight, to a bubbling fountain's sound—
So slender Sohrab seemed, so softly reared.
And a deep pity entered Rustum's soul
As he beheld him coming.

[M. Arnold.

### LAMENTATION.

But now, thy youngest, dearest, one has perished,
The nursling of thy widowhood, who grew
Like a pale flower, by some sad maiden cherished,
And fed with true-love tears instead of dew:
Most musical of mourners, weep anew!
Thy extreme hope, the loveliest, and the last,
The bloom whose petals nipt before they blew,
Died in the promise of the fruit, is waste;
The broken lily lies—the storm is overpast.

[Shelley.

### SUNSET.

Never, from the birth
Of Time, were scattered o'er the glowing sky
More splendid colorings. Every varying hue
Of every beautiful thing on earth,—the tints
Of heaven's own Iris,—all are in the west
On this delicious eve.

[Carrington.

### ETERNITY.

A gulf, whose large extent no bounds engage,
A still-beginning, never-ending age;
Which when ten thousand thousand years are run
Is still the same, and still to be begun.

[Anon.

## ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S PERSONAL APPEARANCE.

A correspondent of the New York Herald, writing from Springfield, Illinois, has the following comments under this head:

Men of the West may care for personal beauty in woman, but in a man beauty constitutes a very small claim upon their regard. But Lincoln is not an ugly man. His features may appear rugged to the casual observer, but when engaged in earnest and entertaining conversation they assume an aspect at once pleasing and engaging. Many men called handsome by belles, lack expression in their features when in conversation, whereas the man of genius telegraphs his mind to others not only by his language, but by the masculine charm of facial expression. Else how could Col. Lincoln have courted and wedded so charming a young lady as she whose realm is now his own domestic home?

If Lincoln ever gets into the White House, you may be bound for it there will be thousands of beauties from all parts of the country who will acknowledge that the pictures and the prints have sadly belied him, and that his cheek bones are not so large, that his mouth is not so big, that his figure is not so lank, as they have been led to imagine, and that altogether he is not far from being a tall, good-looking, middle-aged gentleman, who has offices at his disposal. Lincoln is in the prime of life and vigor—as strong, lithe and as energetic as almost any public man of his age, and showing in his features, his movements and manners, his intellect, his knowledge of law, government and the organic rules that sway men and found systems, evidences that he cannot be easily swerved from a purpose he conceives just to his countrymen. That's what his friends say.

MR. AND MRS. LINCOLN.—In 1840 Mr. Lincoln was a candidate for the office of the presidential elector on the Harrison ticket. Soon after, he again became involved in a love affair which, through its perplexities, and the revival of the memory of his early disappointments, had a terrible effect upon his mind. For a year he was almost a lunatic, and was taken to Kentucky and kept there until he recovered. Soon after his recovery, Lincoln became engaged to Miss Mary Todd. This lady was supposed to be gifted as a literary and satirical writer, though it must be admitted that the specimen of her literary capacity exhibited in sundry anonymous contributions to the newspapers, show little talent beyond the art of irritation. Several of these were leveled at a professional named James Shields, an Irishman, who, being told that Lincoln had written them, sent him a challenge. The challenge was accepted, but the duel was prevented by mutual friends. Lincoln married Miss Todd on the 4th of November, 1842. This marriage, which had not been attended by the most favorable omens, was followed by a singular misfortune. In 1843 Lincoln was whig candidate for congress, but was defeated. He had a hard time of it, and was compelled to meet accusations of a strange character. Among other things he was charged with being an aristocrat, and of having deserted his old friends, the people, by marrying a proud woman on account of her blood and family.

Mrs. Lincoln's estate, exclusive of apparel and personal effects, amounts to $74,000, all in United States bonds.

DENNIS HANKS INTERVIEW

ST LOUIS

GLOBE-DEMOCRAT

1.4.1887

## Mary Lincoln. 1887

"Mary was a little high strung. She came of blue blood, blue grass Kentucky stock; and her tastes were somewhat different from Abe's, but, law, they got along well together. Mrs. Lincoln loved the dance, and often left her husband to take care of the children while she enjoyed the pleasures of the ballroom. To show you she was of a kindly disposition, however, and very womanly withal, when I came home from the Mexican war I stopped over night with Lincoln and his family, and when bedtime came she showed me to my sleeping apartment. I was very tired, and when I had retired, she came in the room and carefully tucked the covers around me as though I were a child. The papers have said many things utterly untrue of Lincoln and his home life. After all, who of us is perfect? I think Lincoln was the best conversationalist of his time. We never retired when Lincoln stopped with my family until 11 or 12 at night, and only wished then time was not so rapid in its flight."

## How Lincoln and Mary Todd Made Up.

C. C. Brown, of Springfield, tells the following story, which he has every reason to believe is absolutely true. "Some time in the autumn of 1840, after Lincoln and Mary Todd had been 'keeping company,' and after it was understood they were engaged, some trouble arose between them and they became estranged. Each was anxious for a reconciliation, yet neither would make the initial advance. Indeed, Miss Todd felt herself so much aggrieved that she had once or twice repulsed Mr. Lincoln's overtures.

"John J. Hardin, of Jacksonville, made a party, and a number of Springfield people were invited. Among them was Mary Todd. Lincoln did not accompany them. After dinner all the young men brought around saddle horses and took the young women for a gallop to the places of interest in the vicinity. So skillfully did Mr. Hardin and his wife manipulate the start that the whole party had arranged itself into couples, mounted, and prepared to ride before it was discovered that Miss Todd had no escort.

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"Then she sat down on the porch in no very pleasant mood, and Hardin and his wife left her alone. While she sat there Lincoln arrived, entirely without a suspicion of his coming so far as she was concerned. And it was there their differences were arranged; and when the party returned they thought they understood why Mary Todd had refused to go riding with them.

"In the following November Abraham Lincoln and Mary Todd were married."—Chicago Times-Herald. 1855

# MEETING AND LOVING.

## Some Prominent Men and Their Wives.

### Romance in the Courtships of Whitney, Gould, Garfield, Cleveland, Lincoln.

### Variations on the Old, Old Story Which Never Is a Chestnut After All.

[New York Press.]

A romantic story is told about the first meeting of August Belmont with the lady who is now his wife. As became her brave blood, the daughter of Commodore Oliver Perry, "the hero of Lake Erie," while still a blooming Baltimore belle, had an intense admiration for personal courage. It was while she was on a visit to some relatives in this city that the active and sturdy young German banker, who had at once taken the place in metropolitan society due the representative of the powerful house of Rothschild, became involved in a famous duel. At the theatre one evening he was among a group of young men, and between the acts one of the party expressed his admiration of the beauty of the ladies present in the boxes, among whom was Miss Perry. A noted Georgia "fire-eater" standing by, who was widely feared and avoided as a bully and a dead shot, made some remark reflecting on the virtue of women generally. There was silence for a moment when young Belmont, a slight, timid-looking fellow, to the dismay of his companions, faced the bully and said in distinct, deliberate tones: "The dog who could utter such a sentiment insults the memory of his own mother and is unfit for the company of decent men." White with rage, the bully hissed: "You shall hear from me, sir!" It was before the war in the good old times and a duel followed of course. Belmont's friends gave him up as a dead man. But when the smoke from the simultaneous fire of the two pistols had hardly cleared away it was found that the bully had a bullet through his heart and Belmont had a ball in his left leg below the knee. He became the hero of the hour and soon after he was able to get about he proposed to the beautiful Miss Perry and was accepted. He afterward confessed that it was her noble face that nerved him to resent the imputation on her sex. To this day he limps painfully, but his wife is proud of his disfigurement.

An example that might be followed with advantage by other great men is set by General John C. Fremont in his delightful "Memoirs." It was while Fremont, then a captain in the army, and attached to the surveying department, was in Washington arranging for the exploration of the far West which afterward made him famous. He was brought into frequent contact with Senator Benton, the recognized champion of the policy of opening up the new country. One day he accompanied Senator Benton's eldest daughter to a school concert at Georgetown, where he first met Jessie, the second daughter. She was then but 16, and "the bloom of her girlish beauty and her bright talk, the effervescence of perfect health," naturally attracted him. When Miss Jessie came home from school a few months afterward Captain Fremont met her frequently, and an attachment soon sprang up between them. Mrs. Benton was unfriendly to the young warrior's suit because she believed her daughter—then but just 16—too young to marry, and thought that the unsettled life of a soldier was unfavorable to the formation of a home such as she desired for her daughter. But amor omnia vincit. In Mrs. Poinsett, wife of the secretary of war, the young captain found a friend and ally whose diplomacy, seconding Fremont's ardor, carried the citadel of maternal solicitude.

It was during his first term at Geauga Seminary in Chester, O., that James A. Garfield, then a boy of 16, met Lucretia Rudolph, the girl who was to be his destiny. She was the daughter of a farmer in the neighborhood, and from the first exerted a marked influence in inspiring the poor towpath boy to high endeavor. Afterward, while a tutor at Hiram College, the young lady was one of his pupils. Mutual esteem and sympathy, arising out of their association in the school, soon ripened into the tenderer feeling which brought about their subsequent union.

As a young man Grover Cleveland was extremely fond of children. In the bachelor apartments over his law office in Buffalo the walls were covered with photographs of bright and beautiful babes. He was particularly interested in the pretty little daughter of his partner and closest friend, Oscar Folsom, and it is said that a portrait of the lovely child at 5 years old, arrayed in a white dress with a big blue sash, held the place of honor in his collection. When Oscar Folsom died he made Cleveland a co-trustee with Mrs. Folsom of their only child, and true to his trust Cleveland watched over the rearing and education of the girl with tenderest solicitude. As the child grew to womanhood the bonds of affection drew the girl and her guardian closer and finally strengthened into the bonds of love. An old schoolmate of Mrs. Cleveland tells the tale of Cleveland's proposal. When little Frances was 8 years old she was sitting on "Uncle Grover's" lap one day entertaining him with childish prattle of what she should do when she grew up into "a big lady." It was about the time of Nelly Grant's marriage in the White House, which had formed a topic for family talk. "I'm going to have a nice white satin dress and get married in the White House, too," she lisped. "But I thought you were going to marry me and I should wait for you," laughingly returned Mr. Cleveland. "Of course it will be you, for you will grow up to be president then," said the child, knowingly. When Cleveland was elected Mrs. Folsom and her daughter were preparing to go to Europe, and on calling to say goodby Mr. Cleveland claimed from Miss Folsom the fulfilment on her return of the promise made when a child. He had performed his part of the bargain, and she had only to fulfil her's and become a White House bride.

President Harrison met the lady who is now his wife while he was a student at Miami University. His experience was the rare one of a college student actually marrying the girl to whom he had pledged his first and only love.

There was a flavor of fatalism in the first meeting of Abraham Lincoln and Mary Todd. As a child the future Mrs. Lincoln often prophesied that she would become the wife of a president of the United States. She was herself the daughter of a Kentucky congressman and something of a belle in her native town of Lexington. When a mere girl she refused to marry a Southern statesman of most attractive personality and high gifts, whose friends looked upon him as one not unlikely to reach the White House. Soon afterward she went to live with a sister at Springfield, Ill. While there, Lincoln, then an obscure lawyer of homely mien and ungainly figure, was presented to her. When he had gone her sister asked Miss Todd's opinion of "Ugly Abe." "That man will be president one of these days," she replied. "He will make a husband to be proud of." About that time Lincoln's chances of ever becoming president seemed about as remote a possibility as could be imagined, and Mary's sister laughed at the idea. All the same, she was married to "Ugly Abe" a few months afterward. Four years from their marriage he was elected to Congress and in 14 years more his wife's prediction was fulfilled.

Boston Globe 6-23-1889.

## Lincoln as a Lover.

It is well known that Liucoln wrote a good many love letters during his career as a young lawyer and politician in Springfield; and there is no reason to doubt the genuineness of those which were produced the other day by Mr. Welk in the course of an oration at De Pauw University. They relate, moreover, to one of the most interesting and pathetic episodes in tho life of that great and good man. The "dear Mary" to whom they were addressed was Mary Todd, who afterwards became Mrs. Lincoln. Lincoln engaged himself to her after a short aequaintance, and when they came to know each other better they both began to doubt the wisdom of the betrothal. Their tastes were found to be incompatible in many respects, and Lincoln particularly distrusted the strength of his affection and the possibility of happiness with the woman whom he had promised to marry. On the one hand was a threat of life-long infelicity; on the other was the obligation of honor which forbade him to break his word because of his misgivings in the matter. A man of less conscience and chivalry would have renounced a bargain which thus dissatisfied him; but Lincoln was not organized for such a course. As he said in one of these letters, "I want in all cases to do right, and most particularly so in all cases with women."

This supreme desire to do the right thing, under circumstances involving the happiness of both the woman and himself, so preyed upon him that he became the victim of profound and hopeless despair. "I am now the most miserable man living," he wrote to his friend and law partner. "Whether I shall ever be better, I can not tell; but I awfully forebode I shall not. To remain as I am is impossible; I must die or be better, it appears to me." He could see no chauee of peace or comfort in the direction of the proposed marriago, and yet his severe and delicate sense of duty would not permit him to gain release at the cost of his plighted honor. He was like a second Hamlet, bewildered by a problem that only grew darker for all his wrestling with it. Some of his best friends did not hesitate to say that his condition was that of insanity. They were unable otherwise to account for his singular and pitiful behavior. He was then as he was always a poet at heart, keenly susceptible to fine influences, and capable of infinite suffering where his emotions were concerned. The only one who appears to have understood him was Joshua F. Speed, a young merchant in Springfield, whose brother afterward became Attorney General. This man persuaded the unhappy attorney to accompany him to Kentucky for rest and recreation. There Speed himself fell in love, and, by a strange coincidence, became as morbid as his friend and guest; and so Lincoln in turn had to play the part of an adviser and consoler, the result of which was that he conquered his own melancholy, and made Mary Todd his wife.

That was in 1842, and Lincoln was then 33 years old, his period of despondency having lasted since the early part of 1840. According to his latest and best biographers, Hay and Nicolay, as well as by the testimony of those who knew him intimately at that time, this crisis matured his character, and gave to his thoughts and purposes that splendid steadiness which fitted him to become the surpassing figure in the history of his time. The marriage to which he finally assented after so much misery did not turn out to be a success, as is generally understood. But never a word of complaint was heard from him. He had done right in keeping faith with the woman who relied upon his integrity, and he accepted the consequences with heroic patience and silence. If at any time he regretted his final decision in the case, the world had no hint of it. The same high considerations of duty and manliness which had caused him to redeem a promise that he might have repudiated with decent excuse led him also to pursue towards his wife a course of unfailing kindness and tenderness. His loyalty as a lover was not more pronounced than his fidelity as a husband. The sterling excellence of his nature was equal to every test, regardless of personal gain or loss, delight or sorrow. And so it comes that the more we learn about him the greater reason we have to honor his name and cherish the memory of his example.

G.D. 6.93 1885

## Lincoln as a Lover.

Abraham Lincoln's sentimental perplexities are to be shown in an article of singular interest which John Gilmer Speed has written from unpublished letters of Lincoln to Joshua Speed, for the next issue of the Ladie's Home Journal. The article will show that the great President was not steady in his affairs of the heart, that he floundered in his love, and finally induced his friend Speed to marry and tell him (Lincoln) whether marriage was a failure or not. 1895

## LINCOLN AND MISS TODD MAKE UP.

C. C. BROWN, of Springfield, telis the following story, which he has every reason to believe is absolutely true.

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Chicago Times 9-8-95

# LINCOLN'S COURT.

## A Duel helped to bring the two Lovers together after an Estrangement.

From Helen Nicolay's The Boys' Life of Lincoln in February Saint Nicholas.

Miss Todd soon singled out and held the admiration of such of the Springfield beaux as pleased her somewhat willful fancy, and Lincoln, being much at the Edwards house, found himself, almost before he knew it, entangled in a new love affair. In the course of a twelvemonth he was engaged to marry her, but something, nobody knows what or how, happened to break the engagement, and to plunge him again in a very sea of wretchedness. Nor is it necessary that we should know about it farther than that a great trouble came upon him, which he bore nobly, after his kind. Few men have had his stern sense of duty, his tenderness of heart, his conscience, so easy toward others, so merciless toward himself. The trouble preyed upon his mind until he could think of nothing else. He became unable to attend to business, or to take any part in the life around him. Fearing for his reason as well as for his health if this continued, his good friend Joshua F. Speed carried him off, whether he wished or no, for a visit to his own home in Kentucky. Here they stayed for some time, and Lincoln grew much better, returning to Springfield about midsummer, almost his old self, though far from happy.

An affair that helped to bring the lovers together again is so out of keeping with the rest of his life that it would deserve mention for that reason, if for no other. This is nothing less than Lincoln's first and only duel. It happened that James Shields, afterward a general in two wars and a senator from two states, was at that time auditor of the State of Illinois, with his office at Springfield. He was a Democrat, and an Irishman by birth, with an Irishman's quick temper and readiness to take offense. He had given orders about collecting certain taxes which displeased the Whigs, and shortly after Lincoln came back from Kentucky a series of humorous letters ridiculing the auditor and his order appeared in the Springfield paper, to the great amusement of the townspeople and the fury of Shields. These letters were dated from the Lost Townships, and were supposed to be written by a farmer's widow signing herself Aunt Rebecca. The real writers were Miss Todd and a clever friend, who undertook them more for the purpose of poking fun at Shields than for party effect. In framing the political part of their attack, they had found it necessary to consult Lincoln, and he obligingly set them a pattern by writing the first letter himself.

Shields sent to the editor of the paper to find out the name of the real Rebecca. The editor, as in duty bound, consulted Lincoln, and was told to give Lincoln's name, but not to mention the women. Shields then sent Lincoln an angry challenge; and Lincoln, who considered the whole affair ridiculous, and would willingly have explained his part in it if Shields had made a gentlemanly inquiry, chose as weapons "broadswords of the largest size," and named as conditions of the duel that a plank ten feet long be firmly fixed on edge in the ground, as a line over which neither combatant was to pass his foot upon forfeit of his life. Next, lines were to be drawn upon the ground on each side of the plank, parallel with it, at the distance of the whole length of the sword and three feet additional. The passing of his own line by either man was to be deemed a surrender of the fight.

It is easy to see from these conditions that Lincoln refused to consider the matter seriously, and determined to treat it as absurdly as it deserved. He and Shields and their respective seconds, with the broadswords, hurried away to an island in the Mississippi river, opposite Alton; but long before the plank was set up, or swords were drawn, mutual friends took the matter out of the hands of the seconds, and declared a settlement of the difficulty.

The affair created much talk and merriment in Springfield, but Lincoln found it more than comedy. By means of it he and Miss Todd were again brought together in friendly interviews, and on November 4, 1842, they were married at the house of Mr. Edwards. Four children were born of this marriage: Robert Todd Lincoln, August 1, 1843; Edward Baker Lincoln, March 10, 1846; William Wallace Lincoln, December 21, 1850, and Thomas Lincoln, April 4, 1853, Edward died while a baby; William, in the White House, on February 20, 1862; Thomas, in Chicago, on July 15, 1871, and the mother, Mary Lincoln, in Springfield, July 16, 1882. Robert Lincoln was graduated from Harvard during the Civil War, serving afterward on the staff of General Grant. He has since been Secretary of War and minister to England, has held many other important positions of trust and is now president of the Pullman Palace Car Company.

1902

"THY WONDROUS STORY"

By JOHN HOWARD TODD, A. B. (Member Illinois State Historical Society)

# THE MARRIAGE OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN

ABRAHAM LINCOLN and Mary Todd were married in Springfield, Ill., on Nov. 4, 1842, after a courtship that was full of dark days and of doubts that wrenched the hearts and harassed the minds of both. The wedding took place on a Friday night while a wind and rain storm swept the streets of the capital city. Only a few of the relatives and close friends gathered for the ceremony at the home of Ninian W. Edwards, whose wife was a sister of Mary Todd. There, without flourish and in a simple setting, the vows were received by the Rev. Charles Dresser, rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church. 1917

Miss Todd had announced to one of her cousins on Nov. 3 that the marriage was to take place that evening, according to one version of the affair. There was excitement in the Edwards family when these plans were suddenly disclosed, and Mrs. Edwards, after some perturbation, remarked that it was fortunate the Episcopal sewing society was to meet with her that evening.

"My supper is all ordered," she said, but Mary Todd quickly vetoed the arrangement, declared she would not make a spectacle of herself for chattering women and forthwith postponed the marriage until the next evening. Mr. Lincoln calmly accepted the schedule as amended by his fiancee and the Friday wedding followed.

Mr. Lincoln and Miss Todd became engaged originally in 1840, after the high-spirited Kentucky girl had received attention from Douglas, Shields and other beaux of the day in Springfield. Some of the Edwards family doubted the wisdom of the proposed alliance. They esteemed Mr. Lincoln as a high-minded, honorable, able gentleman, but feared that the tastes and temperaments of the two were not compatible.

Mr. Lincoln doubted for a time his ability to make this girl happy as a wife. The thought made him miserable and morose, and on New Year's day, 1841, the engagement was broken by him. How this action preyed on his mind is disclosed in a letter he wrote three weeks later to John T. Stuart, his law partner.

"I am the most miserable man living," he confided. "If what I feel were equally distributed to the whole human family there would not be one cheerful face on earth. Whether I shall ever be better I cannot tell; I awfully forebode I shall not. To remain as I am is impossible; I must die or be better, it appears to me."

Mr. Lincoln's stress of mind is supposed to have been due to a feeling that he had been guilty of a breach of honor on that "fatal 1st of January, 1841," as he referred to the breaking of his engagement in a letter to his intimate friend, Joshua F. Speed. In this letter he wrote in part:

"I must regain my confidence in my own ability to keep my resolves when they are made. In that ability I once prided myself as the only or chief gem of my character; that gem I lost—how and where you know too well. I have not yet regained it and, until I do, I cannot trust myself in any matter of much importance."

A story in Herndon's "Life of Lincoln" that Mr. Lincoln was to marry Miss Todd on New Year's day, 1841, that the wedding feast was spread, that the bride-to-be was arrayed in her marriage gown and that the prospective groom failed to appear, has been denied emphatically by a dozen friends best qualified to speak. Under what circumstances the engagement was renewed was the secret of Mr. Lincoln and Miss Todd,



After Lincoln had become a rising young lawyer in Springfield, and while Mary Todd, daughter of a notable Kentucky family, was visiting the prairie capital, that pretty, high-sprited little woman accepted the shy railsplitter in preference to even such a graceful courtier as Stephen A. Douglas. But on the wedding day the bridegroom failed to appear, for some reason that remains in dispute, probably from a correct presentiment that they were ill-mated in temperament. 1920

Once more Lincoln was so tortured in his melancholy soul that friends anxiously watched over him, and he consulted by mail a Cincinnati physician, to whom he described his love sickness in the past and in the present. In the end his sense of duty or an ideal or chivalry triumphed over his forebodings. As if determined to take no more chances with his wayward moods, he and Miss Todd married in such haste that the bride had to wear a borrowed wedding gown. If either repented at leisure, neither ever gave voice to the repentance.

At least, Lincoln's knightly honor, single-handed, patient devotion were well matched by his wife's inspiring admiration of his abilities and her prophetic faith in his greatness. Careful as the husband was of the feelings of others, he innocently offended Mrs. Lincoln's sense of propriety . . forgetting the special knife for the butter, or impulsively getting up from his favorite position on the floor when the bell rang and instead of waiting for the busy hired girl, going to the door, perhaps in shirt sleeves and slippers, to welcome ladies who came to make a fashionable call.

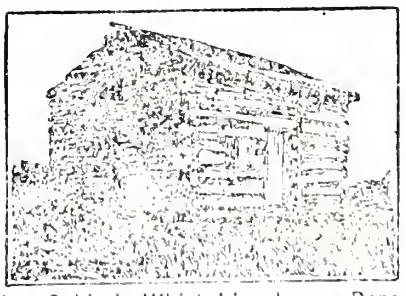
**Mary Todd Set Her Cap for Lincoln.**

Mr. Lincoln used to take great delight in telling how he gained a wife by his ugly looks. Here is another story telling how he gained his wife.

Mrs. Lincoln was a beautiful woman, attracuve, sharp, witty and relished a joke even at her own expense. She was staying with her sister, Mrs. Edwards. She had not been there long before everybody knew Miss Mary Todd. She often said: "When a girl I thought I would not marry until I could get one of the handsomest men in the country, but since I became a woman I learned I can't get such a man, which has caused me to change my mind. I have concluded now to marry the ugliest-looking man I can find."

Later on, Lincoln came to town. She had never seen him before she met him on the street. She was told who he was, and went home and told her sister she had seen her man, "the ugliest man I ever saw—Abraham Lincoln—and I am going to set my cap for him." That became a common saying in street gossip.

When they were married, instead of taking a bridal trip, they went to the Globe Hotel. They took board at $4 a week. When he got able he bought a lot for $200, and built a four-room house costing less than $1,000. When he received $5,000 from his great railroad case he spent $1,500 of it in putting a second story on his house, and there he lived until he went to Washington.



Log Cabin in Which Lincoln was Born

Some people will do almost anything to save trouble, while others are equally anxious to get rid of it.

# NEVER LINCOLN'S REAL LOVE

## His Marriage With Mary Todd Seems to Have Been Largely Matter of Convenience.

Mary Todd, wife of Abraham Lincoln, was the sort of woman who is described as "capable and upright." Lincoln, it is testified by biographers, was not deeply in love with Mary, either before or after their marriage. As a matter of fact, his heart was buried in the grave of his first love, and he had proposed marriage to a second and unwilling young woman. By the time he married Mary Todd, who was neither beautiful nor gracious, he had come to regard marriage as a necessity rather than as the ultimate result of love and romance.

Their courtship was long and suffered many bumps and separations before it culminated in marriage. When Lincoln first met Miss Todd she was only sixteen years old and was being courted by Stephen Douglas the great man's rival in many things.

Lincoln had suggested in a rather offhand way that he would marry her. Apparently regret set in rather soon, for he made several attempts to gracefully withdraw from the compact. But Mary, with prophetic vision, had an idea that he would one day reach the White House and she was determined to be its mistress.

Mar. 6, 1922

# WOMAN, 93, RECALLS LINCOLN 'NEAR-DUEL'

## Widow Tells How Broadswords Fight With Husband, Later a General, Was Averted.

## MARY TODD STARTED IT ALL

### Mrs. Mary Carr Shields Welcomes to Bronx Home Texas Friend She Last Saw as Little Girl.

Although her body was feeble and her hearing impaired, Mrs. Mary Carr Shields, 93 years old, talked as avidly as a college girl at a class reunion yesterday of the arrivals and departures, misfortunes and triumphs of the legion of friends she made as the wife of a United States Senator and Civil War General.

Her companion was Mrs. Eleanor McCracken of Fort Worth, Texas, who arrived yesterday to celebrate Mrs. Shields's birthday with her at her home, 1,117 Hoe Avenue, the Bronx, where she lives with her son, Dr. D. F. Shields.

To the aged woman, memories of the stress and strain of Civil War days, or of portentous events at Washington with which she came in contact, were of little importance. Her interest lay in her guest, who was a little girl when she saw her last but who is now a mother with grown children.

Only when questioned did she talk of her husband's public life as a Senator successively from Illinois, Minnesota and Missouri; of how he was wounded by grape shot while leading the South Carolina "Palmetto Troops" into Mexico City during the Mexican War, and of his appointment as a General by President Lincoln during the Civil War.

General Shields and Lincoln were close friends, although once, when young men, they were on the verge of fighting a duel. The field of honor was on the bank of the Mississippi, near the town of Alton, Ill.

General Shields was then State Auditor of Illinois in Kaskaskia, the State capital. A series of letters signed "Rebecca" and attacking him politically appeared in a local newspaper. The General went to the editor of the paper and was told to see Lincoln, then a lawyer.

The letters were written by Mary Todd, Lincoln's fiancée and later his wife, but Lincoln took the blame. General Shields challenged him to a duel and Lincoln accepted, naming broadswords. The seconds for both men managed to patch up the affair and the duel was never fought.

Mrs. Shields told of her trip from County Armagh, Ireland, her birthplace, to the United States in 1851, on the maiden voyage of the Cheesboro, one of the last passenger sailing vessels to ply the Atlantic. The trip took two months.

"Now it takes less than two days to fly across," she remarked. "It is wonderful. And here I am 93 years old. Can it be possible?"

# QUESTION POPPED

By ORLAND K. ARMSTRONG

WHERE did Abraham Lincoln propose to his sweetheart and future wife, Mary Todd? The biographies are silent or have only conjectured. It is possible that a great old house in the heart of Missouri, could it speak, would tell the answer.

The house stands on the main street of that classic University of Missouri town, Columbia, looking silently out on the now busy thoroughfare. For years it has been known as "the house where Lincoln visited Mary Todd," but there have recently come to light facts that all but prove that it sheltered as a visiting lover the future emancipator when he and the brilliant Kentucky belle who followed him to the White House and immortal fame became engaged.

In the fall of that stirring campaign year of 1840 a great Whig convention and barbecue was held on the banks of the Missouri River at Rocheport, Mo. Being an ardent young Whig, a member of the Legislature of Illinois and possessing aspirations for still higher political honors, the tall young lawyer from the prairies decided to go to this convention near the center of the State to the west of him.

But more than political interests must have drawn him there. For visiting in Columbia, that quiet little town about sixteen miles from Rocheport, was a vivacious young lady, Mary Todd, to whom the ungainly young politician had been paying ardent suit. She was a guest at the home of her uncle, Judge David Todd, a well-known citizen and jurist of that part of the State.

So Lincoln had two very good reasons for setting out for Missouri. Which was the stronger, the call of politics or of love, any one may guess for himself. It will never be entirely known. But it is quite certain that if Lincoln had known that the boat on which he was traveling would get stuck on a sandbar in the muddy Missouri River and make him late for the convention, as it did, he would have looked forward with none the less zest to his visit with his sweetheart.

* * * *

LINCOLN took a boat down the Mississippi River to St. Louis and another boat up the Missouri River bound for Rocheport. This town was an important "landing" and shipping place for boats nosing up and down the Old Muddy River. Rocheport, in fact, had been an important contender for the State capital, but was beaten out by Jefferson City.

As the boat chugged along there is no doubt that Lincoln visualized the impending gathering of vociferous Whigs that would be assembled to partake of the barbecue and hear the speaking. From old newspapers of the period it can be seen that both the barbecue and the speaking came up to expectations. A "vast throng" was present. Pioneer farmers with their wives, children and dogs came in rumbling wagons over bumpy roads or on horseback. They brought feed for the animals and food for themselves, depending partly on the free barbecued meat that was bountifully furnished.

It is quite likely that the welkin rang with the type of political speech common in that day. The Whigs had nominated the stanch old fighter, William Henry Harrison. "Tippecanoe and Tyler, too!" was the campaign slogan. The famous "log-cabin-and-hard-cider" campaign was in full swing.

The Democrats had nominated for reelection Martin Van Buren. The stage was set for a big contest, and some of the smoke of that battle at least some of the steam of its oratory, arose from the barbecue-convention at Rocheport, Mo.

But Lincoln missed all that. Through no fault of his, he had to forgo being there and taking part in the gathering. He was well known as a speaker and a leader, and he might have added to the oratory, might have made a great and historic speech, had he reached Rocheport.

That flat-bottomed boat he was riding on churned up against the current of the river, with its winding curves and shallows, stopping first on one side and then on the other to unload passengers, salt, shoes, coffee, nails and the various commodities a river boat in freight and passenger service carried. Without warning, a creaking grinding noise was heard. The boat had slid up on a sandbar and was stuck fast. All the churning around of the stern wheel could not dislodge it. No doubt it waited for another boat to come along and pull it off. But in the meantime, the tall, lanky passenger from Illinois had gone ashore on the northern bank. Lincoln must have set foot on Missouri soil somewhere near Providence Landing, which is nine miles from Columbia.

The delay had cost him the Whig meeting. There was not time enough left in which to get to Rocheport for the last day.

Lincoln set out from Providence Landing on foot and followed the road to Columbia. Reaching there, he sought out the home of Judge Todd. It is not difficult to imagine that Mary Todd gave him a welcome characteristic of her impulsive, whole-hearted nature and that her uncle and his family seconded the welcome to the big home set among the walnut and maple trees.

Gone is its former grandeur, its wide lawn in front, its rolling acres in the rear. Columbia's "Broadway" passes within a few feet of its old front door, and other homes have sprung up on either side. Something of the picturesque setting of the place may still be seen, however, in the trees, shrubs and sloping contour of the back yard.

Mary Todd had been visiting for several weeks with Judge Todd and with the family of Roger North Todd, another of her uncles. Both these uncles had come from Lexington, Ky., to settle in the fertile hills and valleys of central Missouri. Judge David Todd was a lawyer and jurist of the old school.

Mary was 22 years old at the time of her visit, a buxom lass with dancing eyes. This was her first visit to Columbia, the home of her uncles.

The late Robert Todd Lincoln, son of the great emancipator, once related to North Todd Gentry, of Columbia, grandnephew of the Judge Todd at whose home Mary was visiting, that he remembered being in Columbia with his mother when he was a very small boy. From other members of the Todd family it has been verified that Mary Todd Lincoln came back to this quiet Missouri city for a short visit bringing with her the two small children.

* * * *

SO Lincoln was welcomed as he strode in from his 9-mile walk from Providence Landing. Mary had known him for about a year, and she had completely captivated the heart of the awkward lawyer of the prairie country. Mary had come from her home at Lexington, Ky., to Springfield, Ill., to live with her sister, Mrs. Ninian W. Edwards. Lincoln, a close friend and political associate of Mr. Edwards, had been admitted to the vivacious, charming and witty court of this Kentucky belle. Stephen A. Douglas was also among the half dozen or more earnest admirers who sought the hand of Mary Todd. Mary is reported to have said that she preferred Lincoln, for Douglas would never be President.

At any rate, she and Lincoln strolled beneath the trees of her uncle's yard in Columbia and walked up and down the street that led to the stores. It is quite possible that the young legislator also sought out the courthouse and talked law and politics. No doubt he found the political atmosphere of those black-land Missouri farmers, most of them slave owners, greatly hostile to his Whig convictions.

It is not known just how long Lincoln stayed. But he was there on Sunday, and the lovers went to church together. No doubt Mary looked "mighty pert" in her starched and hooped dress.

The Rev. Isaac Jones was the preacher. One of the older inhabitants of Columbia recalls this minister's declaring that he had no idea he was preach-

ing a sermon to a future President as the serious-eyed visitor looked up intently into his face and listened to his words.

The Todds had in their make-up the pride of the old Blue Grass region of Kentucky. They extended to Lincoln a cheerful welcome, but they advised Mary against marrying him. Her aunts were outspoken against his ungainliness and his awkwardness. He was too tall, they said; he was positively too ugly, one of them declared. Whether Mary merely remained thoughtful at these remarks, whether she answered them with cheeks flushing and with temper hot or whether she withdrew and threw herself across the bed for a good cry is not revealed.

She was accustomed to hearing those objections against this tall suitor, for her sister in Springfield had pointed out these same undesirable traits. Perhaps, as so often happens in such cases, it made her more determined to find out more about the noble character which lay beneath his rough exterior.

* * * *

BUT when did Lincoln propose to her? It is likely that in the twilight of one of those balmy autumn days he strolled with her down the winding road; that she saw his gray eyes look down into hers and heard his earnest voice say he loved her. Perhaps if the whispered echo of the conversation between these lovers could be heard in the great shady yard of the old Todd home it might reveal their plighted troth.

What makes it appear almost certain that Lincoln proposed to his sweetheart on this visit and that she accepted him is the fact that when Mary returned to Springfield some weeks later their engagement was immediately announced. Their wedding was set for New Year's Day.

On that "fatal January 1, 1841," as Lincoln has called it, they were not married. Judge Herndon, Lincoln's law partner, has established the story that on the day of the wedding, when the guests had assembled and all was in readiness, Lincoln failed to appear. It is certain that he suffered a period of melancholy depression for some months following that date, but there is serious doubt that the story of his failure to appear is true. A sister of Mary Todd's mother, grandaunt of North Todd Gentry, of Columbia, has assured him repeatedly that Mary and Lincoln agreed to postpone their wedding date.

Whatever the reason for the postponement of the first date agreed upon, they were married at Mrs. Edwards' home in Springfield on November 4, 1842. And when Abraham Lincoln pledged his love and honor to Mary Todd, he placed upon her finger a ring in which was the inscription, "Love Is Eternal."

# *Blue Ball Native Urged Her to Marry Abe Rather Than Douglas*

## *Emancipator's Other Connections With Lancaster Told by C. H. Martin*

It was a native of Lancaster county, Dr. William S. Wallace, who helped determine the career of Abraham Lincoln by advising Mary Todd to marry Lincoln instead of Stephen A. Douglas, according to C. H. Martin, Deputy Collector of Internal Revenue here and close student of the Great Emancipator's life.

Mr. Martin delivered an address on Lincoln and his associations with Lancaster over WGAL last evening.

Mayor Speaks

Mayor Metzger also spoke on Lincoln over WGAL last night, in connection with the membership drive of Post 34, American Legion. Mayor Metzger declared Lincoln's life "is the finest example in American history to the Legionnaire and to all young men who serve their country in its official life."

Lancaster City and county today marked Lincoln's birthday with varied observances by clubs, schools, fraternal bodies and other organizations. Flags flew from public buildings and many homes, while all banks were closed for the day.

A great-uncle of Mary Todd, George B. Porter, practiced law in Lancaster and made an address here on the occasion of General Lafayette's visit in 1825; Lincoln and his wife spent the first year of their married life in a tavern in Springfield, Ills., which was kept by a widow from Lititz, this county, named Beck; Lincoln as a Congressman lived at the same house in Washington where Lancaster county's Congressman, Hon. John Strohm, resided. These and other interesting relationships with Lancaster county were revealed by Mr. Martin in his address.

The address follows in part:

122d Anniversary

"Tomorrow we celebrate the one hundred twenty-second anniversary of the birth of that great American—Abraham Lincoln. In his life, Lancaster county finds considerable interest and association. From the humble home in which he was born, the family migrated to Indiana, and later to Illinois. Following his admission to the Bar and his election to the Legislature, he was largely responsible in having the Capital of the new State of Illinois removed from Vandalia to Springfield, whither he went in 1837. In the same year, a young lady of distinguished ancestry, Mary Todd, also came to Springfield.

"She was the third of four daughters of Robert Smith Todd, and Elizabeth Porter, his wife. The eldest of these girls, Elizabeth Todd, married Ninian W. Edwards, of Springfield; the second, Frances Todd, married Dr. William S. Wallace, a prosperous druggist and leading physician of Springfield, and the fourth, Anna Maria Todd, married C. W. Smith, a business man of Springfield.

"The maternal great grandfather of the Todd girls was General Andrew Porter of Revolutionary fame, who succeeded General Peter Muhlenberg as Commander of the Pennsylvania troops in the War for Independence. A great uncle of theirs, George B. Porter, practiced law at Lancaster, having been admitted to the Bar in 1813, and being an eloquent speaker, was chosen to make an address at the reception to Lafayette when visiting in Lancaster in 1825.

Educated in Kentucky

"Mary Todd returned from Springfield to Kentucky for a period of two years to finish her education, but late in 1839, she returned to Springfield to live with her sister, the Edwards family.

"It will be seen that the Todd girls had influential family connections. While residing at Springfield, she was being wooed by two prominent young men, one Stephen A. Douglass, and the other, Abraham Lincoln, being somewhat in a quandary in love matters, while indisposed, called Dr. Wallace to see her, and after diagnosing the indisposition, he inquired whether she did not have some illness at heart. Upon confessing, she then asked Dr. Wallace which of the two lovers' attentions she had better annul. Dr. Wallace knowing of some of the indiscretions of Stephen A. Douglass, suggested that she hold on to Lincoln.

"Dr. Wallace was raised in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, about one mile east of Blue Ball, and soon after graduating from the medical college, went to the growing town of Springfield to establish a practice.

Married in 1842

"Abraham Lincoln and Mary Todd were married November 4, 1842. They immediately went to the Globe Tavern on Adams street, Springfield, kept by a widow by the name of Beck, formerly from Lititz, Pennsylvania, where they made their home for more than a year. It was here that their first son, Richard Todd Lincoln, who died about two years ago, was born.

"In 1846, Abraham Lincoln was elected to Congress and upon taking his seat, boarded at Mrs. Sprigg's house on Capitol Hill, Washington, where the Congressional Library now stands. One of his fellow members, Hon. John Strohm, who was serving his second term as Congressman of Lancaster county, boarded at the same "mess hall." Several of the biographers of Lincoln make mention of his associations with Lancaster county's Congressman, both of whom had much in common, being Whigs, strong abolitionists, and champions of the rights of the common people.

"Upon Lincoln's election to the Presidency, he left Springfield for the inauguration on February 11, 1861, the day before his fifty-second birthday, for Washington, to take the oath of office as President of the United States.

"The route was somewhat circuitous, coming through Northeastern Ohio, Buffalo, New York City, Trenton, and Philadelphia; from there to Harrisburg to address the Pennsylvania Legislature. While in Philadelphia, after a strenuous effort ,a delegation of Lancaster folks succeeding in having him stop at Lancaster. He did so for about twenty minutes on February 22, 1861, and addressed a large Lancaster audience from the balcony of the Caldwell House, where Hotel Brunswick now stands. Dr. Wallace, his brother-in-law, accompanied the President on his way to Washington.

"Among the Lancaster folks who heard him speak and lived to recent years were the following:

"Thomas J. Davis, George E. Wis-

ner, Sig. W. Heinitsh, Charles Buckius, E. L. Reinhold, Simon Raub, Harry Musselman, S. M. Sener, John Leonard, David D. Huber, and Thomas McElligott.

"Of him and his address, let me use the words of one or two of the above named hearers. Mr. Heinitsh said that his impression of Mr. Lincoln was that of a very tall man, made taller still by a very high hat, long frock coat, and in coming out of the car, was obliged to stoop when passing through the door. His voice was not strong, but he could distinctly hear every word he had said.

"Mr. Charles Buckius recalls that after the speech, he with William Brady, the famous axemaker of Mt. Joy, went across to the train to hand Mr. Lincoln a package containing four highly polished wood splitting wedges. They had difficulty in placing the package upon the train, due to the great crowd, but finally succeeded and Mr. Lincoln accepted them with a wave of his hand, and later acknowledged them to Mr. Brady, by letter.

"Mr. David B. Huber frequently told the speaker of his reminiscences of the event.

"Following his inauguration, and the beginning of the great Civil War, being burdened with the blood and slaughter, and the penalties imposed for infraction of the military rules, he frequently granted pardons, and was confronted by Secretary of War, Stanton, who charged him with breaking the morale in the army by his innumerable pardons. Stanton requested the President to grant no more pardons without first conferring with him, to which the President agreed. Upon one occasion, a Lancaster county mother, whose soldier boy was to be executed following a court martial, called upon Congressman Thad. Stevens on the day fixed for the execution, to ask him to assist her in saving her boy. Stevens immediately took her to Mr. Lincoln, who said. 'I am sorry, but I can't help you. Mr. Stanton says I am destroying discipline in the army, and I have promised that I will grant no more reprieves without first consulting him.'

**Signing Reprieves**

'There is no time to consult anybody,' rejoined Mr. Stevens, looking at the clock.

'It is too bad, but I must keep my promise to sign no more reprieves,' said Mr. Lincoln, 'without first referring them to Mr. Stanton.' Picking up a telegram blank, Stevens wrote a reprieve and handed it to Lincoln, who stated it was in correct form, whereupon Stevens signed 'A. Lincoln' to the message, and dispatched a messenger to the telegram office.

"Within a few minutes, Stanton hurried to the Executive Chamber exclaiming, 'I see, Mr. President, you have signed another reprieve contrary to your agreement.'

'No,' responded Lincoln, 'I signed no reprieve. I kept my word.'

'But,' says Stanton, 'I just now saw one going over the wires with your name signed to it.'

'But I did not write it,' replied Lincoln.

'Did not write it? Who did write it?'

'Your friend, Thad. Stevens.'

"Stanton took his hat and left without another word but through the trick of Thad. Stevens, and the effort of the Lancaster County Mother, the boy's life was spared.

"A Lancaster County man who as a boy was in the Ford Theater at the time of Lincoln's assassination, says the excitement was very great, and following his death, the next morning Lincoln's body on its way back to Springfield for burial, passed through Lancaster. The funeral train was seen by tens of thousands of spectators who congregated at every town through which it passed.

"Among the Lancaster folks now living who saw the funeral train are Mrs. Jonas Shank, and Hon. Simon Shissler, who retain interesting reminiscences of the train passing through Lancaster."

# ALL OF US

BY
MARSHALL MASLIN

April 1932

**Lincoln Married Well—**

**Mary Todd Kept Him Busy—**

**He Forgot His Misery.**

When you think of Abraham Lincoln, you think of his wife—of that sultry, caustic, arrogant Mary Todd, who married him and did not make him ideally happy.

You have read about Mary Todd. She had wit, a sharp tongue; charm, when she desired to exert it; a good mind. She came from an old, prosperous, prominent family of Kentucky. Abraham Lincoln did not. He was poor, meagerly connected, gangling, homely.

But she found something in him, and he yearned toward Mary Todd. They became engaged, but quarreled stormily, and the engagement was broken on the day of the intended marriage (so the legend goes). And that seemed the end.

* * *

Lincoln was a most unhappy man. The doctors that knew him said he suffered from "hypochrondriasis." He worked too hard; he worried all the time; he was depressed and melancholy; his thoughts ran toward suicide, and at one time in his life, says his law partner, he was even afraid to carry a pocket knife. And when he was 33 years old he wrote to a friend:

"I am now the most miserable man living. If what I feel were equally distributed to the whole human family, there would not be one cheerful face on the earth. Whether I shall ever be better, I cannot tell. I awfully forbode I shall not. To remain as I am is impossible; I must die or be better, it appears to me."

But he met that Mary Todd again, and sparks flew between them as before, and on November 4, 1842, they were married. It is said that on the day of his marriage, as he walked churchward, someone asked him where he was going, and he replied, "To hell, I think!" We know that one week after his marriage he referred to it as "a matter of profound wonder."

That marriage was NOT uneventful. Mary Todd was something of a shrew. Lincoln was deep, but his mind moved more slowly than hers. His family ways did not suit his wife. He annoyed her, she spoke sharply, and he left the house and went down to his office "to do some work." You can imagine what their lives were like.

But Lincoln had "married well." He might have married a woman who would have mothered him, pampered him, softened him. Instead, he married a Mary Todd, who would not let him be; who kept after him, and took his mind away from himself and his long-worded disease.

Alone, he had been sorry for himself. Married to Mary Todd, he had no time for that sort of thing.

Married to some other woman, he might conceivably have remained only a local figure. Married to her, nineteen years after their marriage day he was President of the United States!

Who can say he did not "marry well"?

# Notes on Mary Lincoln

## She Believed in Her Husband's Greatness

**By Claire MacMurray**

MARY LINCOLN was one of those women who make trouble as naturally as they breathe.

She couldn't endure peace and quiet. If there was no excitement going on around her she'd start some—and that right lustily.

Lincoln first met her at the grand cotillion ball given in Springfield in honor of the Legislature of which he was a member.

She came a little late that night with relatives whom she was visiting. She was a comely girl, vivacious and quick tongued, dressed for conquest in a changeable silk dress with a huge skirt and tiny bodice—(she had lovely shoulders and arms and knew it). Her hair was bright brown, her eyes blue and sparkling. She was the belle of the evening.

As the evening progressed she noticed that the stag line (or whatever it was called in 1839) was growing smaller. One by one the men gathered around someone in a corner who was telling stories—Abraham Lincoln.

Mary demanded that he be introduced to her—and so it all began.

Though she had many other suitors she soon became engaged to Lincoln, and from the first said she was marrying a future president of the United States.

Almost from the moment they became engaged they quarreled.

Mary was used to much attention and Lincoln was not prepared to devote himself to her as completely as she demanded. There are many contradictory stories of this period of their lives.

Some biographers say that Lincoln just didn't appear on the first day set for their marriage, some that he fell in love with some one else.

One story goes that he went to break their engagement one time, expecting to be soundly berated. Instead she broke into tears, denouncing herself, not him. When he gave her a farewell kiss, she clung to him, all contrite, loving tears. How could he leave her then?

Finally, almost three years after they first met, they were married.

Then indeed did trouble begin!

Undoubtedly Mary loved her husband. Certainly she believed in his greatness, but this was not enough for her. She began to try to make him over.

She fussed about his table manners, criticized his appearance, fumed at his everlasting funny stories.

Poor woman! However hard she tried to fit him to the mold of fashion, he remained "magnificently inappropriate" in a drawing room.

Although she was a fine housekeeper, she was anything but an ideal wife.

She disliked most of Lincoln's friends; she snubbed his relatives; she made violent scenes in public; was furiously, foolishly jealous.

Her servants, most of them, left almost as soon as they came, pitying Mr. Lincoln at the top of their voices.

She was most economical in household expenditures, but ran up terrific bills for clothes for herself, without her husband's knowledge.

In fact, she was a perfectly awful wife in many ways—but she had one splendid, redeeming attribute. She believed with all her heart that her husband was a great man.

It has been said that she drove her husband to greatness by her nagging.

I believe she led him to it by her faith in him.

LINCOLN LORE

Bulletin of the Lincoln National Life Foundation - - - - - - - - - - - Dr. Louis A. Warren, Editor,
Published each week by The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

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# ORIGIN OF THE SECOND LINCOLN - TODD ROMANCE

Ninety-five years ago on November 4, 1842, Abraham Lincoln married Mary Todd. The following very brief notice of the wedding appeared in the *Illinois State Journal* published at Springfield:

**Married—In this city on the 4th instant, at the residence of W. N. Edwards, Esq., by Rev. C. Dresser, Abraham Lincoln, Esq., to Miss Mary Todd, daughter of Robert Todd, Esq., of Lexington, Ky.**

This announcement so brief and formal must have recalled to the people of Springfield, events of a rather sensational nature which had happened less than two months before. The episode very likely was responsible for the renewal of the Lincoln-Todd romance, which culminated in the marriage of the poor prarie lawyer and a member of the aristocracy.

The incident which likely was most responsible for the resuming of friendly relationships between the two was a veritable bombshell with the life or death of Lincoln, the erstwhile suitor, apparently at stake. He was about to fight a duel to save the name of Mary Todd from being brought into a political embroil, accentuated by an anonymous poem she had written about an office holder by the name of Shields. The poem was published in a Springfield newspaper.

Shields became enraged and demanded from the editor of the paper, Mr. Francis, the name of the individual who had ridiculed him. Lincoln had some weeks before written an article or two referring to Shields but of a less objective nature. Upon hearing of Shields' demands upon the editor and having been advised that Miss Todd was the author of the poem in question, Lincoln assumed the responsibility for all the anonymous writings including the poem written by Mary.

Mary Todd's version of the story is told in a letter she wrote on December 8, 1865 to Mr. Francis B. Carpenter, a portrait painter, who had made the famous painting of the Signing of the Emancipation Proclamation. In one part of her letter, she commented on the Shields duel and gave a brief summary of it and an account of how Mr. Lincoln came to her rescue. She wrote:

"Shields was always a subject of mirth, his impulsiveness and drolleries were irrestible. On one occasion, he made himself so conspicuous, that I committeed his follies to rhyme and some person, looking over the silly verses carried them off and had them published in the daily paper of the place. The sarcastic allusions irritated Shields and he demanded the author of the editor. The latter, requesting a few days for reflection, repaired to Mr. Lincoln, who, having heard of it, through me, immediately told the Editor that, he would be responsible'."

Mrs. Francis, the editor's wife, is known to have been the person who was primarily responsible for bringing Lincoln and Mary together after their long separation. It is not known when this first meeting occurred but it was arranged by Mrs. Francis in her home, unknown to either Mr. Lincoln or Miss Todd. It appears as if it may have been in connection with the difficulty in which her husband, Lincoln, and Mary were drawn together over the Shields matter. It is certain that Lincoln had no thought of resuming his attention to Miss Todd as late as July, 1842 as he clearly stipulates in a letter to Speed. On August 10, 1842, the first of the anonymous contributions that brought on the Shields difficulty was written.

It cannot be questioned but what the willingness of Lincoln to protect Mary had much to do with the renewal of their courtship. As the time of the anticipated duel approached and the possibility of a tragic ending presented itself, it is not difficult to conclude that Mary would look upon Lincoln as a sort of a gallant knight going out in her defense. In the letter to Carpenter already mentioned she wrote:

"This affair, always annoyed my husband's peaceful nerves, and as it occurred six months, (weeks) before we were married, he said he felt he could no less than be my champion. However, if the same cause had transpired a year & half before, it would doubtless have been the same result, as our mutual relations were then, the same."

Mary Todd also stated in the same letter that it was General Hardin, her cousin, who stepped in just at the time the duel was to be fought and stopped the proceedings. The incidents leading up to the anticipated duel had served to make both of them forget the differences of their former companionship and within a month and a half they were married.

We may conclude that Lincoln's behavior during the Shields episode was largely controlled by the instinct of approbation, during which period his one thought was to gain the approval of Mary Todd. As time passed he disliked to have the Shields affair mentioned. His wife relates an incident which reveals how keenly he felt about it:

"Last February, an officer of our army, presented himself in the drawing room of the W. H. on one of those fortunate & especial occasions, when the President, was able to respond to my urgent invitation, to accompany me to the drawing room, if 'only for an hour.' This Genl in the course of conversation, said, playfully, to my husband 'Mr. President, is it true, as I have heard that you, once went out, to fight a duel & all for the sake of the lady by your side.' Mr. Lincoln, with a flushed face, replied, 'I do not deny it, but if you desire my friendship, you will never mention it again.' Immediately after the occurence, months before we were married, we mutually agreed, on no occasion to allude to it & gradually it ceased to be mentioned."

# Lincoln's New Year's Resolution In 1841 Not the Event Pictured Years Later by Wm. Herndon

[illegible] Daily Tribune 1/15/41

January 1, 1841 was an important day in the life of Abraham Lincoln but it was not by any means the kind of an event which the vivid imagination of William Herndon made out of a chance remark many years after the event. Herndon, often none too accurate, wove a wholly imaginary episode of Lincoln failing to appear at the time appointed for his wedding.

Dr. Louis A. Warren, noted historian of Lincoln and head of the Lincoln National Life Foundation, at Ft. Wayne, Ind., writes as follows concerning the event mentioned:

One of the most dramatic and important romances in American history has been so distorted in its essential features that both of the principals in the affair have been made to appear as cowardly or scheming creatures with no real affection for each other. No one would recognize the real Abraham Lincoln and the real Mary Todd in the stories which have been told about their courtship and marriage.

The episode in the Lincoln-Todd romance which has been most grossly exaggerated occurred on January 1, 1841, just one hundred years ago. While we may never know the exact details of what occurred on that day, careful students of Abraham Lincoln are all agreed that William Herndon's account of the supposed wedding scene is a fantastic story based on a passing inference and evolved into a chapter of fiction by his own imagination.

Herndon claimed that the wedding day of Abraham Lincoln and Mary Todd was set for January 1, 1841, at the Edwards mansion, the wedding supper had been prepared, the guests were assembled, "the bride bedecked in veil and silken gown" was ready for the ceremony, but "Lincoln, the principal in this little drama had purposely failed to appear."

the legislature as the principal actor without the story becoming part of the community gossip, and an everlasting bludgeon in the hands of Lincoln's political opponents.

The most convincing evidence against the whole story is the fact that Herndon himself never heard of the episode until an inference was made by Mrs. Edwards whom he interrogated twenty-five years after the incident is said to have occurred, yet Herndon was living in the same building with Lincoln at the very time the event was supposed to have taken place.

Ida M. Tarbell interviewed many of the people still living in 1896 who would be best informed about any such scandal as a groom running away from his wedding ceremony. Three relatives of Mary Todd, a sister, Frances Todd Wallace, another sister, Emily Todd Helm, and a cousin, Mrs. Grimsley, all emphatically denied that any such episode as described by Herndon ever occurred. Mrs. Wallace and Mrs. Grimsley were residents of Springfield.

Lincoln's law partner at the time of the traditional wedding was John T. Stuart. His wife told Miss Tarbell that she never heard of such an incident, and further continued, "I do not believe one word of this dishonorable story about Mr. Lincoln." Mrs. Joshua Speed, widow of the one man in whom Lincoln actually confided, when interviewed by Miss Tarbell elalmed she had never heard of the story as related by Herndon. Mrs. B. T. Edwards, a sister-in-law of Mrs. Ninian Edwards and a close friend of Mary Todd, wrote to Miss Tarbell, "I am impatient to tell you that all that he (Herndon) says about this wedding—the time for which it was fixed, for the first day of January—is a fabrication. He has drawn largely upon his own imagination."

ble exception of the information which Lincoln conveyed to his friend Joshua Speed.

After reading letters which Abraham Lincoln wrote to Mary Owens previous to the Mary Todd courtship, and letters which he wrote to Joshua Speed after the breaking of the engagement, and other contemporary letters written by friends which refer to the estrangement of Lincoln and Miss Todd, one must feel certain that whatever did happen on January 1, 1841, left neither one with unkind feelings toward the other. No written word of either Lincoln or Mary, and there are many references, is other than sympathetic in its import.

From the Speed and Edwards sources we feel safe in concluding that Lincoln made a New Year Resolution on January 1, 1841, to break his engagement with Miss Todd. Speed is probably right in stating that when Lincoln broke the news to her she burst into tears and he soon found tears trickling down his own face. Then he is said to have told Speed, "I caught her up in my arms and kissed her." According to Mrs. Edwards, "On the following day Mary wrote a note to Mr. Lincoln releasing him from the engagement." Feeling he had greatly wronged Mary, Lincoln passed through a long period of almost complete mental exhaustion. It was indeed a fateful first of January for Abraham Lincoln.

It is beyond the comprehension of any one familiar with the character of Lincoln to cast him in the roll of one given to cowardice and deception to such an extent that he would plan to humiliate Mary and the best friends he had in Springfield by such an act. On the other hand those who may be familiar with the sensitive and highly emotional Mary Todd are firmly convinced that if Lincoln had ever deserted her at such a time, he would never have had a second chance to lead her to the altar, as he finally did on November 4, 1842.

Aside from these conclusions which may safely be drawn with reference to the respective attitudes of the two parties involved, there is much valid evidence available which would completely nullify any such episode as Mr. Herndon described. No invitations were ever issued for the wedding, no marriage license was ever secured, no disappointed wedding guest has ever recorded any such marriage farce. Furthermore, no such event could have occurred in the town of Springfield with a member of

It may also be said that M Ninian Edwards made no ment of the incident in a subsequ Herndon interview some years l er, although she talked about romance of Abraham and Ma It would appear that a single ference about Lincoln's failure "meet his engagement" wh Herndon drew from her conver tion should not be allowed to sta in the face of direct evide from individuals who most c tainly would have known ab such a sensational breach of quette as related by Herndon.

If Abraham Lincoln had r away from his own wedding wh many guests were assembled to w ness the ceremony, it is improba that the very next day he wo have occupied his seat in the Leg lature then convening in Spri field. Certainly he would not h made such a dramatic appearan after so humiliating an exhibiti consequently we would say t Lincoln's presence in the Legis ture the next day is positive pr that whatever occurred on Janu 1, 1841, in the lives of Abrah Lincoln and Mary Todd was kno to themselves alone with the pos

LINCOLN LORE

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# ONE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF LINCOLN-TODD MARRIAGE

One hundred years ago on November 4, 1842 there occurred one of the most important events in the personal life of Abraham Lincoln—he married Mary Todd. The real significance of the epochal wedding has been completely overshadowed by a trivial piece of fiction involving Abraham Lincoln in a love affair with a girl named Ann Rutledge.

Ever since the day when William Herndon first publicized in Springfield, Illinois the Lincoln-Rutledge fable, a fictitious story created by his own imagination, biographers, authors of fiction, playwrights, poets, magazine contributors and feature writers have invariably ignored the facts about Lincoln's real romance with Mary Todd which culminated in his marriage. The emphasis placed on the alleged Rutledge affair has left the casual American reader feeling that Lincoln's real venture in matrimony was a catastrophe. One writer had the audacity to state in the opening sentence of an article in the *Reader's Digest* (January 1937): "The great tragedy of Lincoln's life was not his assassination, but his marriage."

Probably it is too late now to do very much about correcting the ridiculous and wholly undependable story about Lincoln's infatuation for Ann Rutledge, and his supposed mental collapse, approaching suicide, at the time of her death, in which there is not one word of truth. It may not be too late, however, to invite a more sympathetic attitude toward the facts relating to Lincoln's actual romance with Mary Todd and the wedding which made them husband and wife, although Herndon attempted to nullify the interest in the actual Lincoln-Todd nuptials by printing a foolish and untenable story about Lincoln having at a previous date run away from a wedding ceremony.

Up until Lincoln was twenty-eight years of age he had lived in the rural districts far withdrawn from cultural influences. In these words he tells of his first permanent residence in a town: "On April 15, 1837 removed to Springfield." His reaction to this new situation, socially at least, is noted in a letter he wrote on May 7, 1837 after he had been in Springfield twenty-one days, in which he said: "I am quite as lonesome here as I ever was anywhere in my life. I have been spoken to by but one woman since I've been here, and should not have been by her, if she could have avoided it."

That one woman who had spoken to him may have been Mary Todd, cousin of his law partner, John T. Stuart, whose office it is likely she visited as she was in Springfield at this time for a three months' visit. Whether or not Lincoln met Mary Todd during this first visit, or did not meet her until 1839 when she came there to make her home, we may feel assured that he was captivated by her intellectual attainments, her aristocratic bearing, her brilliant conversation and undoubtedly was impressed by the fact that she was a great admirer and personal acquaintance of the venerable, Henry Clay, Lincoln's own "beau ideal of a statesman."

That Lincoln became engaged to Mary Todd sometime in the year 1840 is well known, and that they anticipated being married sometime in 1841 is also admitted, but Herndon's story about a proposed wedding to have accurred on January 1, 1841, at which time guests were present, wedding breakfast prepared and Mary was left at the altar with no bridegroom on hand, is a gross fabrication.

Mrs. Wallace, a sister of Mary Lincoln, made this testimony with reference to Herndon's fake wedding: "There is not a word of truth in it. I was never so amazed in my life as when I read that story. Mr. Lincoln never did such a thing."

That the engagement of Abraham and Mary was broken on January 1, 1841 is accepted, and while it is not known for a certainty which one of the young people was responsible for the misunderstanding, it is not evident that there was any demonstration on the part of either one of them that caused any expression of disrespect. Two factors which undoubtedly contributed to the temporary separation was Lincoln's fear that Mary might not be happy in having to share his humble station, and the influence of Mary's aristocratic relatives who looked with much disfavor on the match. Mrs. John T. Stuart, wife of Lincoln's first law partner claimed that "Mr. Edwards, her guardian, always was opposed to Mr. Lincoln, on the ground that he was a poor young man and had no prospects," and that, "he insisted upon Mary writing a letter to Mr. Lincoln, breaking off the engagement."

For many months after the parting Mary and Mr. Lincoln did not keep company, but it is evident from their correspondence with friends that they were still in love with each other. We will leave it to Mrs. B. S. Edwards, a sister-in-law of Ninian Edwards, who married Mary's sister, Elizabeth Todd Edwards with whom Mary lived, to tell the story of the wedding plans.

"Ninian Edwards came to our house rather early in the morning of a November day and without any preliminaries said: 'My wife wants you to come to our house this evening.' I asked what was going on. He replied: 'We are going to have a wedding. I met Mr. Lincoln a while ago and he told me that he and Mary were going to be married this evening (I think he said) at the parsonage, but I told him that must not be. Mary was my ward, and if she was going to be married it must be from my house.' He went on to say that he had left his wife greatly disturbed over the fact that she did not have time to prepare a suitable wedding feast . . . Some little misunderstanding had occurred which prevented Mr. Lincoln from visiting at the house, but Mrs. Simeon Francis, whose husband was editor of the *Sangamo Journal* (a mutual friend), had made arrangements that they should meet there, and it was there the wedding was planned. To her sister, Mrs. Edwards, Mary had been reticent and had not given the least intimation of her purpose."

There were but few guests at the wedding and the *Illinois State Journal*, for November 11, 1842 carried this announcement:

"Married—in this city on the 4th instant, at the residence of W. N. Edwards, Esq. by Rev. C. Dresser, Abraham Lincoln, Esq. to Miss Mary Todd, daughter of Robert Todd, Esq. of Lexington, Ky."

Sam Marshall, of Shawneetown, Illinois, sent Lincoln a check for legal services which reached him just an hour before the wedding. Days later Lincoln acknowledged the receipt of the money and commented: "Nothing new here except my marrying, which to me is a matter of profound wonder."

This is the inscription which Abraham Lincoln had placed in the ring that he slipped on the wedding finger of Mary Todd, one-hundred years ago: "A. L. to Mary November 4, 1842. Love is eternal."

Note—See Lincoln Kinsman, No. 36.

***Kelleher Gets Lincoln Watch***

*CLIFFSIDE PARK (N.J.)* Wm. F. Kelleher (544 Westview Ave.), antiquarian specialist, got himself a watch for $475 at a Parke-Bernet sale on May 15. This was a special watch, however, with a story, being the pocket watch Abraham Lincoln bought for his fiancee, Mary Todd, in 1841. When the engagement was broken he retrieved the watch and presented it to Miss Mary N. Curtis, who kept it for 31 years before selling it to a close friend.

Antiquarian Nov. 27. '50

# Watch Lincoln Bought for Mary Todd but Gave to Another, Is in Milwaukee

## *Abe Failed to Appear at His Wedding to Present the Jeweled Timepiece*

By LARRY LAWRENCE
of The Journal Staff
and CHARLES D. STEWART

The watch Abraham Lincoln purchased to give Mary Todd on the day set for their wedding, Jan. 1, 1841, is in Milwaukee.

Mary Todd did not get that watch. Lincoln changed his mind and failed to show up for his wedding. But Mary and Lincoln were married nearly two years after that New Year's day he had ruined for her. After the marriage Lincoln always referred to that day as "the fatal first of January, 1841."

It is certain that Mary Todd never got to see the beautiful, diamond studded, blue enamel 18 carat timepiece that had been bought to be her wedding present. It is likely that she never even heard of it. It was lost to the world for generations.

Lincoln had given it to another girl. Another Mary. Mary Curtis.

Behind the watch is one of the most remarkable love stories in American history. After he had failed to appear for his wedding, Lincoln must have felt that he was through with Mary Todd for life, so thoroughly separated from her, that he had given the sentimental token to a girl he knew only slightly. He must have wanted to be rid of that wedding watch, of everything that could remind him of Mary Todd.

Did he regret the gift throughout the rest of his life? Did he think of the sacrifice he had made in paying the $300 for the diamond studded watch? That was a great sum to Lincoln, to nearly everyone in Springfield in 1840.

Throughout his lifetime, lived with the woman he had once disappointed, that watch must have kept ticking in his mind, reminding him over and over of the "fatal first of January." Did he at times also think of his first love, Ann Rutledge who had died and left him with a broken heart? Did his love for the departed Ann have anything to do with his failure to show up for his wedding on New Year's day of 1841?

This much is known. Lincoln was overwhelmed with the thought of marrying Mary Todd, the educated southern belle. He was moody and depressed and had tried to break his engagement to her before the wedding date was set. Mary Todd had moved from Louisville, Ky. to Springfield, Ill. to live with her sister Mrs. Ninian Edwards. She had taken a leading part in society and was a much sought after young lady.

### *Courted by Douglas*

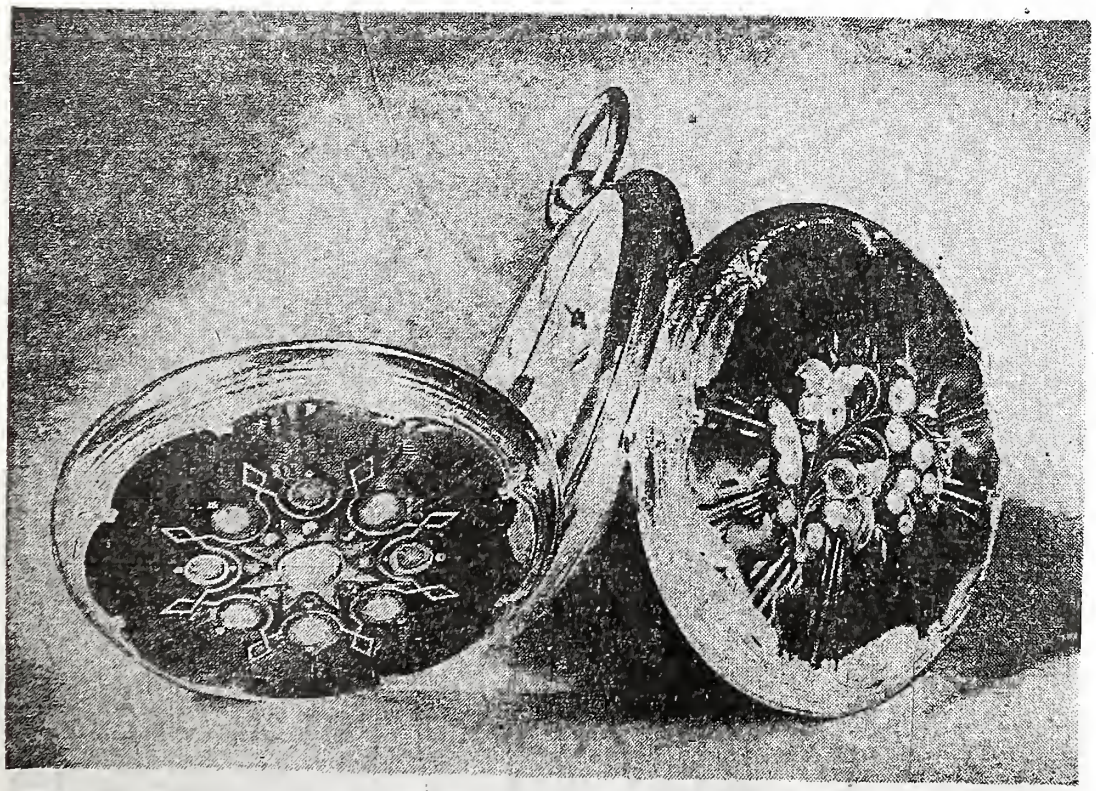
The most eligible bachelors of the town courted her. Among her swains was Stephen Douglas, the little giant of Illinois politics. But Mary liked Lincoln, the tall, gangling pioneer without formal education. They became engaged in 1840. She had told her sister, who opposed the match, that she saw signs of greatness in Lincoln, that he might even become president. To her sister and others in Springfield then that seemed extremely silly.

From the beginning of the engagement there were difficulties. Lincoln apparently doubted his ability to make Mary happy. Was not she a social leader who had been educated in the most exclusive boarding schools? He was only a self-educated, struggling lawyer. They quarreled frequently. Mary had great ambition. Lincoln wanted only to make a living and help the poor man out of difficulties. Toward the end of 1840 Lincoln had decided he could not marry Mary Todd. He told his law partner Joshua Speed that he was going to write Mary a note and break the engagement. Speed told him that was a cowardly thing to do, that he should tell Mary to her face.

### *Love Scene*

Lincoln went to the Edwards' home to tell Mary he could not marry her. She sobbed as if her heart would break and Lincoln took her in his arms and kissed her. It was during this scene, it is thought by historians, that the date for the wedding was set. It was after this scene that Lincoln picked out the beautiful watch to give to his bride on their wedding day. He had in inscribed, inside the back cover, "To Miss Mary Todd from A. L. 1841."

The wedding supper was cooked. The guests were assembled in the Edwards home. They waited. Lincoln did not appear. They waited until late in the day.



This shows the historic blue enamel timepiece that Lincoln meant to present to his bride on their scheduled wedding day, Jan. 1, 1841, but never gave to her. The photo enlarges the watch slightly. Both front and rear covers are opened. The front of the hunting case has a star design with nine fairly large diamonds and many diamond chips. Three of the larger diamonds and most of the chips are missing. The back case cover has a floral design and is also studded with diamonds. The watch is in perfect running order. —Journal Staff

Mary Todd sobbed, then stamped her foot.

Mrs. Edwards said, "Mary, you are well rid of that uncouth man." Lincoln had quietly left Springfield. He did not come back for two weeks. When he returned he went to the home of William Butler where he boarded. Mary Curtis, a Kentucky beauty who looked something like Mary Todd was visiting at the Butler home. Lincoln stepped into the parlor and saw Miss Curtis. He sat and chatted with her for a little while.

## *Sparkling With Diamonds*

Suddenly Lincoln stood up and said, "Mary, I have something for you." He produced a rosewood box, handed it to her and stalked out of the room. Later she said that he looked pale and unhappy. Mary opened the velvet lined box and looked at the beautiful watch, sparkling with diamonds. She took it to her room and left Springfield for Louisville the next morning. She did not wind the watch for several days after she arrived at her home. She probably had felt that she was engaged to Lincoln. Such a gift could mean only love, she probably reasoned.

To wind it with the key she had to open the back of the case. When she opened it, she saw the inscription to Miss Mary Todd. What her feelings were then she never told anyone. In fact she did not mention the watch to anyone for several weeks. But she kept it and cherished it for 31 years. Lincoln had become president, freed the slaves, preserved the Union and been assassinated before Mary Curtis wrote a line about the watch. She was old and ill in June of 1872. She wrote a letter to her friend, Miss Elizabeth Cobb DeWitt who was then living in Washington, D. C., and was some years younger. The letter which has been preserved with the watch and which is now in Milwaukee reads:

June 7, 1872.

My Dear Elizabeth: With the return of spring I am so happy as I love the flowers and all nature in her new coat of green. Most of all I long for the time when I will see you again and we will talk of the times spent so happily together. Only a sweet memory, dear Elizabeth, cherished so fondly.

I wonder do you still draw? We could make some drawings together. I still cling to my art. I know you used to do very beautiful things.

Dear Elizabeth your birthday is on the 29th. You see, I remember it always and I want you to make me very happy this year and accept a present that will give me much happiness in the giving, as it was a very happy and sad remembrance.

Do you remember the beautiful blue watch with the diamond stones our beloved President Lincoln gave me that memorable afternoon of January, 1841, with the inscription inside: "To Miss Mary Todd from A. L., 1841"? Well, I want you to accept it from me and keep it as a remembrance of me, when I pass to the great beyond, dear Elizabeth.

I feel sure you will do this for me as it will make me very happy. I will send the watch by Harry upon his return. Dr. White feels that my cold is im-

*Turn to LINCOLN, page 2, col. 3*

est necessity would permit me to feel satisfied in parting with it. Could we expect the great honor of having you for dinner at your pleasure next week? . . . Believe me very sincerely,

Elizabeth Cob De Witt.

How long Mayor Grant kept the watch is not known. Just what he did with it is not known. It is possible that he, too, came upon hard times and sold it. It is known that in 1898 the watch was owned by a Mrs. John D. Simmonds, who put great store by it. A Mr. Scott, not identified, apparently knew of the watch and wanted to buy it.

A letter in manuscript, written by J. Reynolds, sr., secretary for Mr. Simmonds, said:

May 3, 1898.

Dear Mr. Scott: Mr. John D. Simmons has directed me to say that the watch presented by Abraham Lincoln to Mary Curtis is not, under any circumstances, for sale. It is possible that it will be presented to his Grace, the archbishop of New York, by Mr. Simmons, to be given to the Metropolitan museum of New York.

seum of New York. Very truly yours, J. Reynolds, sr.

There the history of the watch becomes a blank again. What happened to it from that date until Dec. 8, 1931, is a mystery. On that date an old woman, not identified in records, came into the shop of a dealer in rare documents, coins and stamps in Washington, D. C., and offered the watch for sale. It was in the original velvet line, rosewood box. With it she presented the original letters that have been quoted in this story. The leader purchased the watch and letters. She made the dealer swear that he would never reveal her name. The dealer put the watch up for sale, and Mano Swartz of Baltimore, Md., an art collector, purchased it. Still the watch had never been exhibited publicly. Swartz, shortly before his death, sold the watch to Joseph Kruskal of New York city.

## *Displayed Once*

In 1936 in New York city an exhibition called "The Life and Time of Abraham Lincoln Exhibition," was held. The watch and letters were put on public display for the first time in history. The items in the display were insured for $200,000.

The watch passed to other hands after that one display and at last has reached Milwaukee. It was purchased by Foster Cannon, a dealer in rare books, and a collector of Lincoln mementos.

It is hoped that Milwaukee will get a chance to see this watch that has so much romantic history in it and sheds a great light on the unhappy incidents that shadowed the life of Abraham Lincoln.

—Journal Staff

**This photo shows the inscription** inside the back cover of the watch Abraham Lincoln bought for Mary Todd but gave to another girl. It reads: "To Miss Mary Todd from A. L. 1841." Note the hole for the winding key and the hole for setting the hands. The Swiss works are in perfect running order.

*Edith Johnson*

# The Lincolns Were in Love

HOW long can the effect of a traducer's words last?

A long time, if we take the word of William H. Herndon, law partner of Lincoln, and his statements concerning the married life of Lincoln and Mary Todd. According to Herndon, Lincoln did not love his wife. Until of late most Americans have believed this, and for two reasons. Mary Todd became Lincoln's wife we were told because she was bent upon self-vindication after Lincoln left her "waiting at the church"; and she believed that in some future day he would be elected president of the United States. Herndon indicated also that after the marriage Lincoln's life was a hell on earth with Mary Lincoln alternating between niggardliness and extravagance and that she meddled continuously in his professional and political affairs.

CONVINCED by Herndon's testimony and that of several others, especially that relating to a romance with Ann Rutledge who in recent years has become a mythical figure, the Alton railroad some time ago named two new streamliners running through Lincoln country in central Illinois the "Abraham Lincoln" and "Ann Rutledge." Would not that have been enough to cause high-strung Mary Todd to turn over in her grave?

Even years ago David Donald in his book, "Lincoln's Herndon," all but shattered the law partner's reputation for veracity. Two years ago Ruth Painter Randall further demolished the Herndon testimony in her book, "Mary Lincoln, Biography of a Marriage."

Mrs. Randall read hundreds of letters Mrs. Lincoln had written to her husband and as a result of this experience she concluded that the Lincolns had held each other in deep affection. No historian, she claims, ever has found the slightest evidence that Lincoln at any time gave a thought to another woman after his marriage. Whatever her faults, Mary Todd was an intelligent, attractive woman, according to her lights a devoted wife and conscientious mother. Undoubtedly she was highly temperamental. In the words of Carl Sandburg, Lincoln's biographer, "she could shine with radiance at a gift, a word, an arrival or a surprise. She was vivid, perhaps too vivid."

THE man who falls in love with and marries such a woman may be called upon again and again to overlook flaws in her personality and to forgive her impetuosities. That need not destroy his love for her, a love that he might not have for a drab woman, the kind who is the same yesterday, today and forever. So we have reason to believe that Lincoln did love his Mary. And so did others. "As there was shine and a foaming over of vitality she won friends," Sandburg tells us. Always men have been fascinated by a woman such as Mary Todd. And they will continue to be enchanted by one of her kind.

There is no doubt that Lincoln and Mary Todd were mutually devoted to their children. Their grief over the death of their son, Willie, was overwhelming.

In letters to Mrs. Lincoln the president often referred to their boys as the "dear codgers." In one he pled, "Don't let the blessed fellows forget their father." Back came their mother's reassuring word: "Do not fear that the children have forgotten you. Even Eddie's eyes brighten when your name is mentioned."

IN public affairs Mary Lincoln was fiercely loyal to her husband and her wifely pride spoke up with spirit. During the Lincoln-Douglas debates she said, "Mr. Lincoln may not be so handsome a figure as Douglas but people may not be aware that his heart is as big as his arms are long."

After his election to the Congress a luke-warm constituent remarked that Lincoln was in favor in the eastern part of Illinois.

"My husband is a great favorite everywhere," returned Mary Lincoln. "He will be president of the United States some day. Look at him. Does he not look as if he would make a magnificent president?"

"Though he seems not to have been a romantic lover and husband," Mary Lincoln wrote to Dr. J. G. Holland, "you are aware that with all of his deep feeling he is not a demonstrative man." Could that have been one reason why the world has been long in discovering the depth of Lincoln's love for Mary Todd?

*by Irving Wallace, David Wallechinsky, and Amy Wallace*

## The General's Old Clothes

Perhaps the sloppiest soldier ever was Zachary Taylor, whose appearance deteriorated as he rose in the ranks.

Even as a brigadier general, Taylor dressed as he wished. A Texas volunteer who served under him in a campaign described the general in one outfit: "... an old oilcloth cap, a dusty green coat, a frightful pair of trousers, and on horseback looks like a toad." Soldiers sometimes mistook Taylor for an old farmer, but they loved him for his friendliness and informality.

During the Mexican War (1846-1848), Taylor reportedly donned his uniform only twice. The first time was for an army review that never took place. The second was for a meeting with Commodore David Conner, commander of a naval squadron during the war. Knowing Conner to be a spit-and-polish dresser, Taylor decked himself out in his wrinkled military regalia—sword, epaulets and all. Conner, in an equally respectful gesture, came dressed to please Taylor—in civilian clothes.

In 1848, Zachary Taylor—though rumpled—was elected 12th President of the United States.

*Zachary Taylor in the uniform of a general, one of the few times he was dressed in his military attire*

*The latest books by Irving Wallace, his son David Wallechinsky and daughter Amy are, "The Intimate Sex Lives of Famous People," "The People's Almanac III" and "The Book of Predictions."*

## The Squaw Man

**Chroniclers of the early West have recorded that American Indians took a dim view of cowardice in battle. They often punished the fainthearted with death. But one male offender was forced to dress and live as a woman for the final 60 years of his life.**

**In 1878, the U.S. Indian Bureau dispatched Nathan Meeker to the White River Agency in western Colorado to "civilize" the Utes. A social reformer and utopian, Meeker thought he could teach the nomadic Utes to live in houses and be farmers. The Utes wanted no part of him. But Meeker had a job to do, and when the Utes continued to balk, he summoned the cavalry. In retaliation, the Utes slaughtered Meeker and six of his men.**

**One Ute brave named Yugasie refused to join the massacre. When the dust had settled, he was ostracized from male society and forced to dress, live and work as a squaw for the rest of his days. Although he lived to be nearly 100, Yugasie never protested his enforced transvestism and docilely went about his daily chores, which included sewing the blouses and ankle-length skirts he wore. Actually, Yugasie's so-called punishment was not as severe as it sounds. Many Indian tribes tolerated transvestism; some Indian men even chose the homosexual or quasi-female existence. Yugasie, however, was offered no choice.**

## The Rivals

*Abraham Lincoln with wife Mary in 1860, after defeating Stephen Douglas for Presidency. Years before, he also defeated Douglas in fight for Mary*

Abraham Lincoln and Stephen Douglas were famous political rivals. Although it is little known, they were romantic rivals as well. At one time, they each sought the hand of the same woman in marriage.

Both Lincoln and Douglas noticed a young lady named Mary Todd when she moved to Springfield, Ill., in 1839. Mary was an accomplished flirt, but she vowed to marry only for love.

Her family hoped she would choose Douglas, a lawyer who, like Mary, had ambition and social standing. Some said he might even be President one day. Called "the Little Giant" because he stood just 5 feet tall, Douglas was handsome, with a powerful voice.

But another lawyer had caught Mary's eye. This one, Abe Lincoln, was a gangly 6-feet-4, with ill-fitting clothes and rustic manners. Four years older than Douglas, he'd been a state legislator since 1834. But to Mary's family, he lacked class, money and looks.

By late 1840, Mary and Lincoln were engaged. Once when Lincoln arrived late at a party, he found Mary flirting animatedly with Douglas. Within a few days, Lincoln broke their engagement. After a painful separation, however, they were married in November 1842.

Sixteen years later, Lincoln and Douglas were again rivals. This time the issue was slavery. Their famous debates continued until the Civil War. Commented Mary during an 1858 debate: "Mr. Douglas is a very little, *little* giant by the side of my tall Kentuckian, and intellectually my husband towers above Douglas just as he does physically." Lincoln lost the Illinois Senate seat to Douglas in 1858 but won in 1860 when the two vied for President.

At Lincoln's inaugural ball, his First Lady, dressed in blue, took the arm of Stephen Douglas, and the two danced as they first did 22 years earlier.

## The Father Of the Atomic Bomb Was Not Einstein

Albert Einstein's 1939 letter to President Franklin Roosevelt urging development of an atomic bomb—the famous document that started the Nuclear Age—was not written by Einstein at all. It was ghostwritten for him by a relatively little-known Columbia University physicist named Leo Szilard.

In 1939, Szilard and Princeton scientist Eugene Wigner approached Einstein to ask a vital favor. Given his great stature, would he lend his name to the promotion of a serious study of nuclear energy's wartime applications and the design and construction of an atomic bomb?

Einstein agreed, although he confessed relative ignorance about nuclear chain reactions. Szilard wrote a draft and presented it to him for his signature on Aug. 2. It spoke of the "vast amounts of power and large quantities of new radiumlike elements [that] would be generated" by a nuclear chain reaction set off in a large chunk of uranium.

The message finally went to Roosevelt. Later, Einstein did write and sign two follow-up messages which, together with the first, led to the 1942 formation of the Manhattan Project, which developed the bombs dropped on Japan in 1945. Szilard was one of the project's guiding forces. Einstein had nothing whatsoever to do with it. "I ... only acted as a mailbox," Einstein later wrote. "They brought me a finished letter, and I simply mailed it."

*Leo Szilard. Ghosted famous letter*



—Journal Staff

Louisville (Ky)
Courier-Journal

acted like an insane man. It was a repetition, from another cause, of what had occurred to him when Ann Rutledge died. He recovered after awhile, but he could not get rid of the feeling of guilt and disgrace. His intention had been to do the right thing, but he realized that in failing to keep his word he had done a monstrous wrong. He made no explanation to Miss Todd, nor did she ask for any. The harm was done, and by mutual consent they became strangers to each other. "If what I feel were equally distributed to the whole human family," he wrote to his partner, "there would not be one cheerful face on the earth;" and what the woman must have suffered only women are capable of comprehending.

This would have been the last of the matter but for the intervention of another woman, Mrs. Francis, who was a warm friend of Mary Todd, and whose husband was likewise attached to Lincoln. Through her diplomacy the estranged pair came together again, much to their surprise, and a reconciliation was speedily effected. They had frequent private meetings in Mrs. Francis' parlor, and at length a second day was appointed for the wedding. This time there was to be no failure. It was Lincoln's opportunity to save his honor, and he improved it, not from choice, but from moral necessity. The woman so interpreted his action, undoubtedly, and she was willing to take him on such terms, not because she loved him, but because that was her only way to remove the humiliation which he had previously put upon her. Their exchange of vows was a mockery. The scene had in it no element of marriage except the formality which united their hands when their hearts were divided. As Lincoln was dressing for the ceremony a friend's little boy innocently asked him where he was going. "To hell, I suppose," was his grim reply. And when he stood before the minister to register the oath that his sense of duty demanded, we are told by an eyewitness, "he was as pale and trembling as if being driven to slaughter."

The result of this wedding was lifelong bitterness, as might have been anticipated. It may be said without disrespect that Mary Todd was not the kind of woman that Abraham Lincoln should have married. The mistake was a hideous one for both of them. They lived unhappily from first to last, and there was no help for it. There is nothing more pathetic in all history than the fact that the man dearest to the hearts of his countrymen for his superior goodness never had a home. His domestic life was empty of all that would have made it happy and inspiring. And yet how beautiful was his patient fidelity to the woman whom he had wedded so unwisely, and how bravely he endured a cross that must often have wearied his great soul to the point of despair! There is something to be said for the woman, too. She was not more responsible than he was for the terrible blunder of their marriage; nor was all the blame hers for the infelicity that they had to bear. With another man she might have been a different woman. They were uncongenial in all essential respects; and they were therefore fated to miss the joys that come only to those who are harmoniously mated, and who have the love that is but another name for immortal hilarity.

## LINCOLN NOT LONG IN MOVING HIS TRAPS.

W. H. McKnight, of Louisville, has addressed the following letter to Miss Tarbell recalling some incidents in the life of Lincoln told him by Joshua Speed:

"Louisville, Ky., February 1, 1909.—Dear Miss Tarbell: In your interesting reminiscences of President Lincoln and his love affairs, published in the Courier-Journal, you give the true incidents about the same as Mr. Joshua Speed detailed them to me. Mr. Lincoln's anxiety, his great depression and misgivings as to whether his suit for the hand of Miss Todd would be successful, and if so whether the union would result in happiness to both.

"Mr. Speed also stated to me his reply to Mr. Lincoln's letter advising him as a friend not to hesitate or longer doubt that happiness would be the result of his marriage to Miss Todd, giving his own experience of depression and melancholy before he and Miss Henning had finally made up and determined to risk their happiness in each other's keeping, and my recollection is that Mr. and Mrs. Speed invited Mr. Lincoln to make them a visit, which he accepted. He was so much encouraged by seeing the happy home of his friend, who urged him to delay no longer if he would enjoy the unalloyed happiness he believed would be theirs. Soon after his return to Springfield he and Miss Todd were married.

"Mr. Speed and I were good friends for many years before his death, and he told me many interesting anecdotes of Lincoln. One of them I will repeat. When he came to Springfield to live he called on Mr. Speed, who kept a general store, a little of almost everything, groceries, blankets, beds and bedding, chairs and tables, and asked to be shown such articles as he would need to fix up his room. After selecting a few things that he must have, when Speed told him the amount of the bill, he said: 'I am sorry to have troubled you, but that is more than I can possibly afford to pay. I will have to try to rent a cheap room already furnished.'

"Mr. Speed added in telling it to me that he never saw such a look of despondency on any face in his life, and that he never sympathized with any one so deeply before, and said to him: 'Mr. Lincoln, I have a large room upstairs over my store here with a very large bed, chairs, table and bookcase, and if you would not object to sharing it with me I will be glad to have you with me, and if shall not cost you a cent as long as you wish to occupy it.'

"Mr. Lincoln's countenance brightened instantly at such a generous offer, and accepted with heart-felt thanks, and said: 'I will go immediately and move my belongings.'

"In less than half an hour he returned to the store and went straight up the stairway without stopping, with one armfull of books and a pair of saddlebags across the other. In a few minutes he returned to the store below, with the Lincoln-like remark: 'Speed, I've moved.'

"After Mr. Lincoln was elected he told Mr. Speed to name any office in his gift and it would be his. Mr. Speed thanked him, but did not desire any office for himself. 'Well, name some worthy friend whom you would be pleased to have appointed.' Mr. Speed said he had a cousin, Mr. John J. Speed, whom he would like to see appointed if he had any offices to spare. He asked Mr. Speed what office he thought would suit his cousin, and he said he thought the office of postmaster of this city would suit him, and Lincoln appointed him. He also without any request from Mr. Speed, appointed Mr. Speed's brother, James Speed, a member of his Cabinet—Attorney General—which, of course, you know. Respectfully yours,

"W. H. McKNIGHT."

J WRIGHT

**Lincoln's Aversion to Dancing—His Marriage.**

"Although Lincoln," continued the captain, "was very fond of outdoor backwoods sports all his life, he was never given to dancing. I used to twit him about his abstemious disposition in this direction, while visiting him at Springfield after the capitol was moved there. This was after Lincoln had married. His wife, however, dearly loved the ballroom, and Springfield could not furnish a lady who could grace a company or ballroom more happily than she. Abe never refused to accompany his wife to these festivities, but invariably stole away from her to the cloakroom when he did, where a party of like affectionate souls were assembled; and while Mary was flashing and smiling in the whirl of the dance, he would be spinning off yarns to his eager listeners. He was never seen in the dance and would only appear in the grand promenade. I used to tell him he was too proud of his personal appearance to unbend to the touch of the fiddle. Because Abe and Mary were together in the ballroom only when arriving or taking their departure, people remarked that their home life was somewhat jarring. I think there never was a greater misstatement. There could be no more tender affection than existed between them even unto death."

"You have not heard the story of their marriage? Well, I give it to you as I have been told by a very dear friend, long since dead. There have been statements published about Lincoln wanting to marry other girls, but I doubt very much if he ever popped the question to any maiden other than Mary Todd, and she accepted him. The day was set for the marriage, it came and the bridegroom also, but for some unknown reason the bride did not. This made Lincoln for the time very angry. Explanations satisfactory to appease him were afterwards made, courtship followed, and then a second engagement entered into. The day was set for the marriage a second time, invited guests and relatives assembled, the bride, minister and everything in waiting, but the groom this time failed to materialize. Lincoln afterward explained his conduct to his intended's enraged kinsfolk that as the bride, acting the party of the first part, had at a time in the past did as he, the party of the second part, had done in the second instance, he thought they were now square, and was willing to renew the compact for the third time. Other explanations followed, new obligations were finally entered into, the wedding day for the third time named. Both bride, groom, minister and guests were this time present, and the marriage duly celebrated. Mind, I give you this as the statement of another, but a man whom I believe would tell naught but truth.

# *How Fate Played a Strange Prank in Keeping "Honest Abe" From Whig Convention When His Steamboat Struck a Sandbar in the Missouri River, but Landed Him Instead in the Arms of His Sweetheart to Hear Her "Yes" to His Proposal of Marri*

By Orland K. Armstrong

WHERE did Abraham Lincoln propose to his sweetheart and future wife, Mary Todd? The biographies are silent or have only conjectured. It is possible that a great old house in the heart of Missouri, could it speak, would tell the answer.

The house stands on the main street of that classic University of Missouri town, Columbia, looking silently out on the now busy thoroughfare. For years it has been known as "the house where Lincoln visited Mary Todd," but there have recently come to light facts that all but prove that it sheltered as a visiting lover the future emancipator when he and the brilliant Kentucky belle, who followed him to the White House and immortal fame became engaged.

In the fall of that stirring campaign year of 1840 a great Whig convention and barbecue was held on the banks of the Missouri River at Rocheport, Mo. Being an ardent young Whig, a member of the Legislature of Illinois and possessing aspirations for still higher political honors, the tall young lawyer from the prairies decided to go to this convention near the center of the State to the west of him.

But more than political interests must have drawn him there. For visiting in Columbia, that quiet little town about sixteen miles from Rocheport, was a vivacious young lady, Mary Todd, to whom the ungainly young politician had been paying ardent suit. She was a guest at the home of her uncle, Judge David Todd, a well-known citizen and jurist of that part of the State.

So Lincoln had two very good reasons for setting out for Missouri. Which was the stronger, the call of politics or of love, any one may guess for himself. It will never be entirely known. But it is quite certain that if Lincoln had known that the boat on which he was traveling would get stuck on a sandbar in the muddy Missouri River and make him late for the convention, as it did, he would have looked forward with none the less zest to his visit with his sweetheart.

LINCOLN took a boat down the Mississippi River to St. Louis and another boat up the Missouri River bound for Rocheport. This town was an important "landing" and shipping place for boats nosing up and down the Old Muddy River. Rocheport, in fact, had been an important contender for the State capital, but was beaten out by Jefferson City.

As the boat chugged along there is no doubt that Lincoln visualized the impending gathering of vociferous Whigs that would be assembled to partake of the barbecue and hear the speaking. From old newspapers of the period it can be seen that both the barbecue and the speaking came up to expectations. A "vast throng" was present. Pioneer farmers with their wives, children and dogs came in rumbling wagons over bumpy roads or on horseback. They brought feed for the animals and food for themselves, depending partly on the free barbecued meat that was bountifully furnished.

It is quite likely that the welkin rang with the type of political speech common in that day. The Whigs had nominated the stanch old fighter, William Henry Harrison. "Tippecanoe and Tyler, too!" was the campaign slogan. The famous "log-cabin-and-hard-cider" campaign was in full swing.

The Democrats had nominated for reelection Martin Van Buren. The stage was set for a big contest, and some of the smoke of that battle, at least some of the steam of its oratory, arose from the barbecue-convention at Rocheport, Mo.

But Lincoln missed all that. Through no fault of his, he had to forgo being there and taking part in the gathering. He was well known as a speaker and a leader, and he might have added to the oratory, might have made a great and historic speech, had he reached Rocheport.

The flat-bottomed boat he was riding

on churned up against the current of the river, with its winding curves and shallows, stopping first on one side and then on the other to unload passengers, salt, shoes, coffee, nails and the various commodities a river boat in freight and passenger service carried. Without warning, a creaking, grinding noise was heard. The boat had slid up on a sandbar and was stuck fast. All the churning around of the stern wheel could not dislodge it. No doubt it waited for another boat to come along and pull it off. But in the meantime, the tall, lanky passenger from Illinois had gone ashore on the northern bank. Lincoln must have set foot on Missouri soil somewhere near Providence Landing, which is nine miles from Columbia.

The delay had cost him the Whig meeting. There was not time enough left in which to get to Rocheport for the last day.

Lincoln set out from Providence Landing on foot and followed the road to Columbia. Reaching there, he sought out the home of Judge Todd. It is not difficult to imagine that Mary Todd gave him a welcome characteristic of her impulsive, whole-hearted nature and that her uncle and his family seconded the welcome to the big home set among the walnut and maple trees.

Gone is its former grandeur, its wide lawn in front, its rolling acres in the rear. Columbia's "Broadway" passes within a few feet of its old front door and other homes have sprung up on either side. Something of the picturesque setting of the place may still be seen, however, in the trees, shrubs and sloping contour of the back yard.

Mary Todd had been visiting for several weeks with Judge Todd and with the family of Roger North Todd, another of her uncles. Both these uncles had come from Lexington, Ky., to settle in the fertile hills and valleys of Central Missouri. Judge David Todd was a lawyer and jurist of the old school.

Mary was 22 years old at the time of her visit, a buxom lass with dancing eyes. This was her first visit to Columbia, the home of her uncles.

The late Robert Todd Lincoln, son of the great Emancipator, once related to North Todd Gentry, of Columbia, grandnephew of the Judge Todd at whose home Mary was visiting, that he remembered being in Columbia with his mother when he was a very small boy. From other members of the Todd family it has been verified that Mary Todd Lincoln came back to this quiet Missouri city for a short visit, bringing with her the two small children.

SO LINCOLN was welcomed as he strode in from his nine-mile walk from Providence Landing. Mary had known him for about a year, and she had completely captivated the heart of the awkward lawyer of the prairie country. Mary had come from her home at Lexington, Ky., to Springfield, Ill., to live with her sister, Mrs. Ninian W. Edwards. Lincoln, a close friend and political associate of Mr. Edwards, had been admitted to the vivacious, charming and witty court of this Kentucky belle. Stephen A. Douglas was also among the half-dozen or more earnest admirers who sought the hand of Mary Todd. Mary is reported to have said, that she preferred Lincoln, for Douglas would never be President.

At any rate, she and Lincoln strolled beneath the trees of her uncle's yard in Columbia and walked up and down the street that led to the stores. It is quite possible that the young legislator also sought out the courthouse and talked law and politics. No doubt he found the political atmosphere of those black-land Missouri farmers, most of them slave owners, greatly hostile to his Whig convictions.

It is not known just how long Lincoln stayed. But he was there on Sunday and the lovers went to church together. No doubt Mary looked "mighty pert" in her starched and hooped dress.

The Rev. Isaac Jones was the preacher. One of the older inhabitants of Columbia recalls this minister's declaring that he had no idea he was preaching a sermon to a future President as the serious-eyed visitor looked up intently into his face and listened to his words.

The Todds had in their make-up the pride of the old Blue Grass region of Kentucky. They extended to Lincoln a cheerful welcome, but they advised Mary against marrying him. Her aunts were outspoken against his ungainliness and his awkwardness. He was too tall, they said; he was positively too ugly, one of them declared. Whether Mary merely remained thoughtful at these remarks, whether she answered them with cheeks flushing and with temper hot or whether she withdrew and threw herself across the bed for a good cry is not revealed.

She was accustomed to hearing those objections against this tall suitor, for her sister in Springfield had pointed out these same undesirable traits. Perhaps, as so often happens in such cases, it made her more determined to find out more about the noble character which lay beneath his rough exterior.

BUT when did Lincoln propose to her? It is likely that in the twilight of one of those balmy autumn days he strolled with her down the winding road, that she saw his gray eyes look down into hers and heard his earnest voice say he loved her. Perhaps if the whispered echo of the conversation between these lovers could be heard in the great shady yard of the old Todd home it might reveal their plighted troth.

What makes it appear almost certain that Lincoln proposed to his sweetheart on this visit and that she accepted him is the fact that when Mary returned to Springfield some weeks later their engagement was immediately announced. Their wedding was set for New Year's Day.

On that "fatal January 1, 1841," as Lincoln has called it, they were not married. Judge Herndon, Lincoln's law partner, has established the story that on the day of the wedding, when the guests had assembled and all was in readiness, Lincoln failed to appear. It is certain that he suffered a period of melancholy depression for some months following that date, but there is serious doubt that the story of his failure to appear is true. A sister of Mary Todd's mother, grandaunt of North Todd Gentry, of Columbia, has assured him repeatedly that Mary and Lincoln agreed to postpone their wedding date.

Whatever the reason for the postponement of the first date agreed upon, they were married at Mrs. Edwards' home in Springfield on November 4, 1842. And when Abraham Lincoln pledged his love and honor to Mary Todd, he placed upon her finger a ring in which was the inscription, "Love Is Eternal."